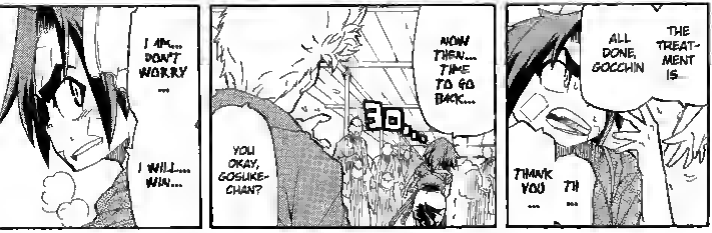
サムライうさぎ
FUKUSHIMA TEPPEI
8
SAMURAI USAGI
JUMP COMICS

CHAPTER SIXTY-TWO: THE LEAPING RABBIT



STILL
THAT WAS OUR INTENTION FROM THE BEGINNING.
BUT THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO NOW IS BELIEVE IN YOU.
...IN THAT CASE,
WE'LL BE CHEER-ING FOR YOU WITH ALL OUR MIGHT

GRAB!!
HAVING EVEN ONE PERSON WHO DOES THAT...
CAN HELP CHANGE THE RESULTS, RIGHT?
Y... YUP!
THAT'S RIGHT, GOCCHIN!!
OKAY!
LET'S CHEER HIM ON!!
YEAH!!
RIGHT?
...I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

I WAS GETTING TIRED OF WAITING...
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME.
DID YOU PLAN ON WAITING 'TILL YOUR BONES HEALED?
COME ON.
LET'S GET STARTED
THE SECOND ROUND OF THE FINAL DUEL MAY NOW BE-GIN!!!!

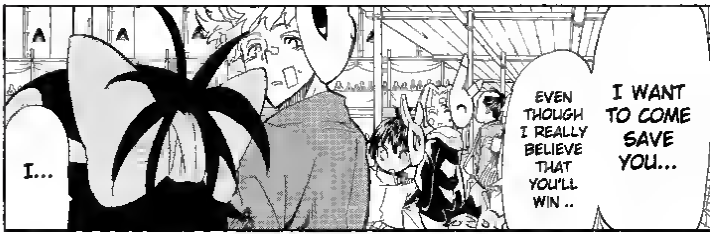
GU ...
HA HA
I'M GOING TO CARVE THIS MATCH...
SIMPLY AFTER SCORING TWO POINTS.
I DON'T PLAN ON ENDING THIS...
OKAY, LET'S DO IT
ONE, TWO
INTO THE MIND OF EVERY SAMURAI HERE.
RAB-BIT!!!
DO YOUR BEST, GOSHKE-CHAN!!
COME ON, RAB-BIT!!!
.....

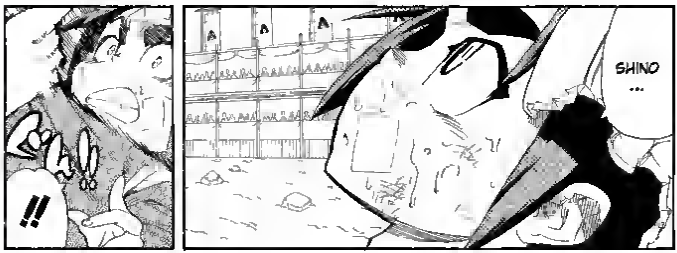
COME ON!!!
RAB-BIT!!
RAB-BIT!!
HE'S STRONG ...
HOW-EVER ... THIS IS WITH-OUT A DOUBT ...
A FRONTAL ATTACK !!!
RAB-BIT!!
RAB-BIT!!
RAB-BIT!!

RAB-
BIT!!
RAB-
BIT!!
RAB-
BIT!!
RAB-
BIT!!
RAB-
BIT!!
RAB-
BIT!!
DAMN
IT...
RAB-
BIT...
RAB-
BIT...

……
ポク!!
RABBIT
……
I... I'M AN AWFUL WIFE...
ゴシ
S-SORRY, GOCCHIN.
!
……

Y...
YOU JUST LOOK LIKE YOU'RE SUFFERING SO MUCH...
I... HATE IT...


I...
EVEN THOUGH I REALLY BELIEVE THAT YOU'LL WIN ..
I WANT TO COME SAVE YOU...


!!
SHINO ...

...ISN'T THIS GREAT, UDAGAWA?
YOU HAVE YOUR BELOVED WIFE'S FORGIVENESS.
NOW YOU'RE FREE TO SAY...
"I LOSE" TO ME, AREN'T YOU?
.....
.....
I'M REALLY SORRY!!
I TRIPPED AND RUINED THEM ALL!!
IT'S SUCH A SHAME THAT I FAILED TO CUT HER--

ぐっ!!
ドッ!!
ドッ!!
ドッ!!
たっ!!
I...
I'M OKAY
IT'S OKAY
DON'T WORRY, SHINO..

I'M YOUR HUSBAND, SO I BELIEVE IN YOU.
GOC-CHIN
HM?
.....
Um...

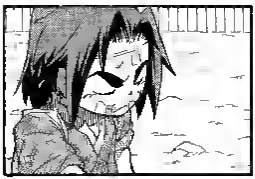
TAKE CARE!
...I WILL!!
REMEMBER EVERYTHING YOU'VE FOUGHT THROUGH TO MAKE IT THIS FAR
FOR THE SAKE OF WINNING THIS MATCH
NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO BE WALLOWING IN PAIN, UDAGAWA GOSLIKE
THAT'S RIGHT
.....
Gn..

FOR THE SAKE OF LIVING HAPPILY WITH SHINO.
JUST THINK OF HOW IT HAS ALL BEEN

HA HA....
I ENDED UP THINK-ING OF NOTHING BUT SHINO
I WONDER IF I'M SOME KIND OF FOOL
FOLLOW-ING THE WILL
OF MY HEART
HMPH
HE CLOSED HIS EYES ..?
GO-SU-KE-KUN

SFX. TATATATA- FOOTSTEPS
I'M SURE GOSSAN HEAR IT CLEARLY-
THE SOUND OF THAT GUY'S APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS
THAT WASN'T A FLUKE.
LET'S JUST PRAY IT WASN'T A FLUKE!!
HE WAS ABLE TO BLOCK IT...!!!
SUCH SPEED IS...

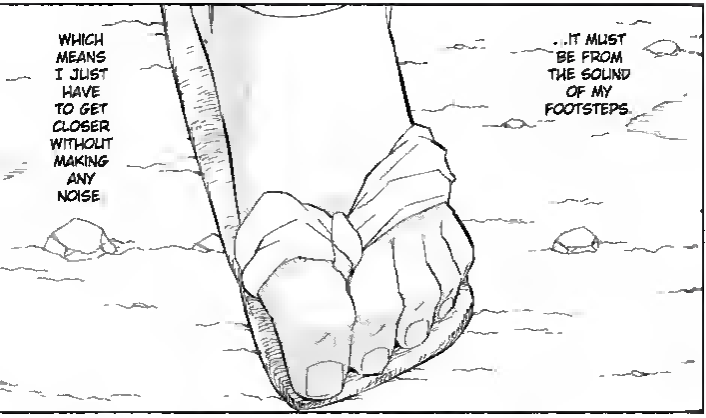
HA... HAN-ZOU !!?
IS...IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE UP!?
WORRY ABOUT GOSSAN RATHER THAN ME.
HOW'S THE MATCH GOING?

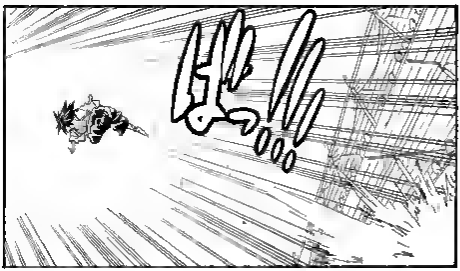


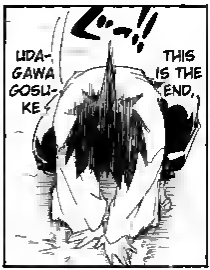
HE'S ALREADY LEARNED HOW TO LISTEN
USING THE SOUND OF THOSE BURSTING BAMBOO SHOOTS, AFTER ALL.

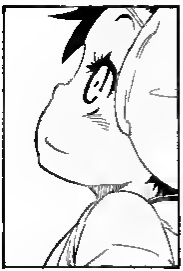
SO HE WAS ABLE TO BLOCK IT...

I DOUBT HE'LL LOSE WITH A FACE LIKE THAT.
WELL...


WHICH MEANS I JUST HAVE TO GET CLOSER WITHOUT MAKING ANY NOISE
...IT MUST BE FROM THE SOUND OF MY FOOTSTEPS.


BU-!!!
BU-...!!!

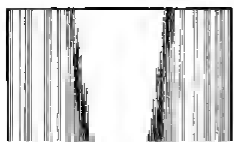

U-!!
UDA-GAWA GOSU-KE-
THIS IS THE END.



HE LEAPT INTO THE AIR!!?
!!!

WAS ABLE TO JUMP FASTER ...AND HIGHER THAN ME...
THIS MAN ...
...I WAS STARTING TO THINK THAT YOUR SKILLS WERE TRULY GREATER THAN MINE IN ALL ASPECTS.

TN: THE 'WOZU' IN MOZUKU'S NAME MEANS SHRIKE, A TYPE OF BIRD WITH A VICIOUS STYLE OF KILLING AND EATING ITS PREY



IS THE RAB-BIT !!!!
ドカッ!!

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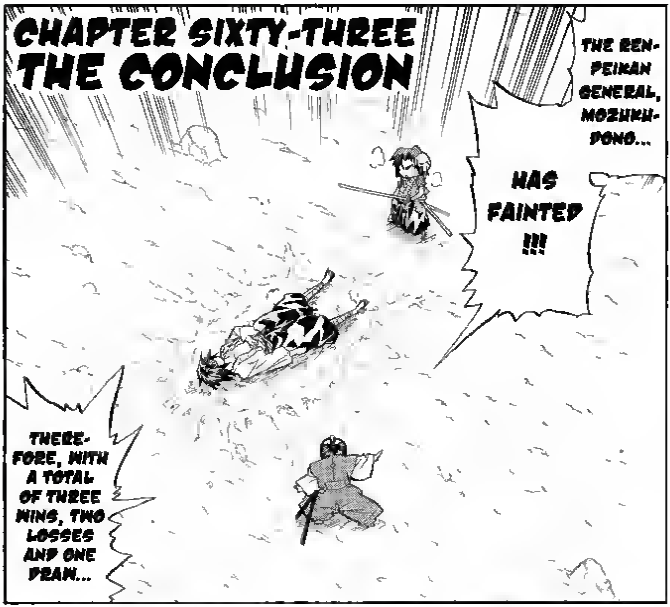
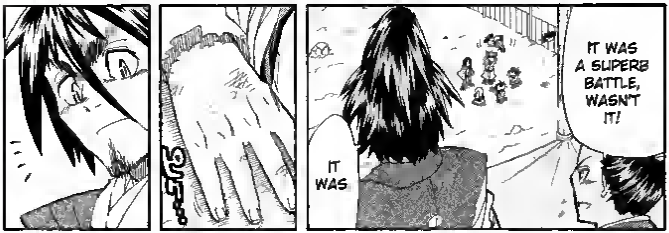
.....
Ha...
Ha...


CHAPTER SIXTY-THREE
THE CONCLUSION
THE BEN-PEIKAN GENERAL, MOZUKU-DONO...
HAS FAINTED !!!
THERE-FORE, WITH A TOTAL OF THREE WINS, TWO LOSSES AND ONE DRAW...

Ha!!
VICTORY GOES TO THE USAGI DOJO!!!

HURRAY
VICTORY!
EH?
EH?
YOU DID IT, GOC-CHIN!!!
HURRAY, VICTORY!
WAY TO GO, MASTER!!!


SFX: PIKU - TWITCH
IT WAS.
IT WAS A SUPERB BATTLE, WASN'T IT!

HA ...
HA ...

PLEASE LEND ME YOUR EAR...!
WHAT NOW?
IT... IT'S AN EMERG-ENCY!!
HANI-BUCHI-SAMA !!!
TO GET UP AFTER RECEIVING A BLOW LIKE THAT WOULD BE-
DON'T TELL ME HE PLANS TO KEEP GOING
!!!
WE HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT THAT...
THE FIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE USAGI DOJO ARE IN FACT THE ESCAPED RONIN, POSING AS MEMBERS OF THE RENPEIKAN...
IT SEEMS THAT REVENGE IS THEIR MOTIVA-TION ..
AND WHAT CAUSED IT IS...
SIR! AFTER GATHERING PIECES OF INFORMATION HERE AND THERE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ISN'T SUPPER READY YET?
HEEEY, SUZUME-CHAN!
ペタペタ
ピタ…
ピタ
ピタ
YOU CAN JUST ADD ANOTHER TWO OR THREE COATS TO YOUR UMBRELLA WHILE YOU WAIT!
DON'T RUSH ME!!
'KAY!
OKAY!! IT'S READY!!
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME, DAMN IT!!!
IT'S FOR STITCHING UP SUZUME-SAN'S FINGERS, SO IT'S SKIN TONED STRING.
...that makes sense.
HEY TSURUYA, WHAT'S WITH THIS STRANGE BUNCH OF STRING?
OH, THAT?
USING TWO KNIVES MAKES CHOPPING GO WAY FASTER!!
WOW! I'M SO DAMN SMART!!

HERE!! COME AND GET IT, YOU LOT!!
I'LL GET ASUKA'S PORTION READY FOR HIM!
WHAT ARE WE HAVING?
LOOKS GOOD!!
CHOPPED BURDOCK WITH MUSTARD SPINACH, VEGGIES BOILED IN SOY SAUCE AND MISO SOUP WITH TOFU.
I WANNA HAVE TEA AFTERWARDS SO HEAT THIS UP!
HERE, UZURA!
HRM HM!!
!!!
SFX: GASHAAAN!! - CLATTERING

.....
MO...
MO-ZU-KU.
BEFORE EVERY-ONE ELSE...
HAD A CHANCE TO GET THEIR OWN PORTIONS, I-
EVEN IF YOU DID RUIN THE FOOD, WHY'RE YOU CONFESSING IN SUCH A BLUNT MANNER!!?
.....
DON'T WORRY, MOZUKU-SAN.
SUZUME-SAN ISN'T BEING SERIOUS.
IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE OF ANY USE THEN JUST SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP!!
UGH, NOW I GOTTA REMAKE IT ALL, DAMN IT!!
SORRY...

ALL OF US ARE HERE BECAUSE OUR PARENTS SAID...
THAT WE WERE "UNNEEDED" AFTER ALL.
MOZUKU-SAN?
WEEDS OR WHAT-EVER...
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR THINGS WE CAN COOK.
.....

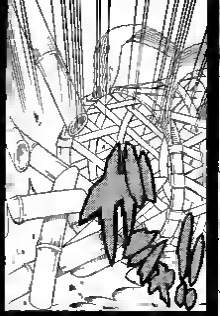
A BLIND TOY SALESMAN GOING BY THE NAME ASUKA...
BEGAN TO FOSTER CHILDREN BORN INTO SAMURAI HOUSEHOLDS AFTER THEY HAD BEEN ABANDONED
GROSS!!!
I don't remember putting these weeds in here!!!
That was me...
Mozuku...
These aren't edible...
Nana herbs, I think they're called...

HONOR-ABLE SAMURAI,
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IS NOT THE CASE.
ONCE THIS RUMOR REACHED THE EARS OF THE KOJIKAN, THEY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SOMETHING SCANDALOUS MUST HAVE BEEN GOING ON
AND PROMPTLY DECIDED TO PAY ASUKA A VISIT.
...SO YOU SAY, ASUKA-DONO.
EVEN SO, WE CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT THESE DISPIRITED LOOKING CHILDREN HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LEAVE THIS ROW HOUSE.
IN TRUTH, DID YOU NOT SIMPLY LURE THEM IN WITH TRICKERY?
THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS AT THE HOMES OF THESE CHILDREN.
AFTER LOOKING INTO IT WE FOUND THAT...
THAT'S BULL-SHIT!!!
YEAH, GET OUT OF HERE!!
I WON'T KILL YOU, BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO SAY THE WRONG THING, THEN...
I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU THROUGH A BIT OF PAIN.
!!!

PLEASE STOP.
THESE CHILDREN HAVE NO WISH TO BE CUT...
Ooo
HMPH...
NOR DO THEY WISH TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.
IF WHAT WE SAY DOESN'T MATTER, THEN...
DO AS YOU LIKE.
OOH!!!
WE'RE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!!
THANK GOODNESS, RIGHT EVERYONE!!

"THE MOUNTAIN PATHS ARE DANGEROUS" HE WAS SAYING
AND SEEMED REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT.
HE WAS GOING UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS, SO MOZUKU WANTED TO EXPERIENCE IT TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT
DID MOZUKU GO WITH ASUKA TO GATHER BAMBOO?
HUH?
THAT'S NOT IT, SUZUME-SAN.
W-WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL MAD ABOUT THAT "EYELASH GHOST" FIGHT YOU GUYS GOT INTO...
WELL... I WAS THINK-ING...
ABOUT LEAV-ING THIS PLACE...
HMM. I SEE
I GUESS THEY WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE, THEN...
DID YOU HAVE SOME-THING TO DO?
IF WE STAY HERE FOR MUCH LONGER, WE'LL END UP CAUSING TROUBLE FOR ASUKA.
AND....
YEAH....
SOMEHOW I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT...
IT'S THOSE SAMU-RAI...
FROM THE OTHER DAY, ISN'T IT...?

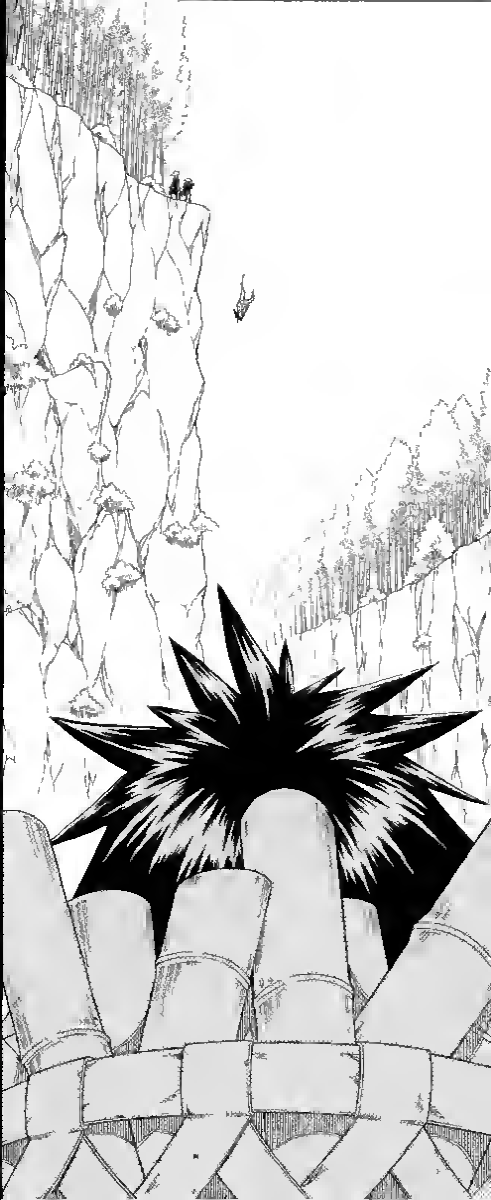
NOT JUST A LITTLE BIT OF TROUBLE, BUT...
SOME-THING WE COULD NEVER MAKE UP FOR...
I GOT A WHOLE BUNCH OF FU FU... THEM!
HEY ASUKA, MAYBE WE SHOULD GO...
ASU-KA?



THOSE GUYS MUST BE
NO, I'M SURE OF IT...
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO CAME BY THE OTHER DAY WEARING WHITE HAORI !!

SO THEY FOLLOWED US ALL THE WAY HERE
TO DO THIS KIND OF THING ..?

I HAVE TO HURRY UP
HURRY
HURRY



AND MOVE MY LEGS FASTER .....!!

AND AFTER FEW YEARS, THEY REVEALED THEIR DEVILISH STRENGTH TO THE ENTIRETY OF EDO
THEY LEFT THE ROW HOUSE TO SEEK OUT TRAINING IN A NUMBER OF MARTIAL ARTS

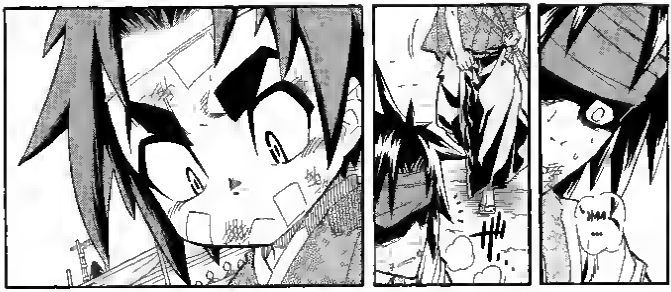
THIS WAS ALL DONE FOR THE SAKE OF CRUSHING THEM...
A GROUP OF SAMURAI WEARING WHITE HAORI- THE KOBUKAN.
.....

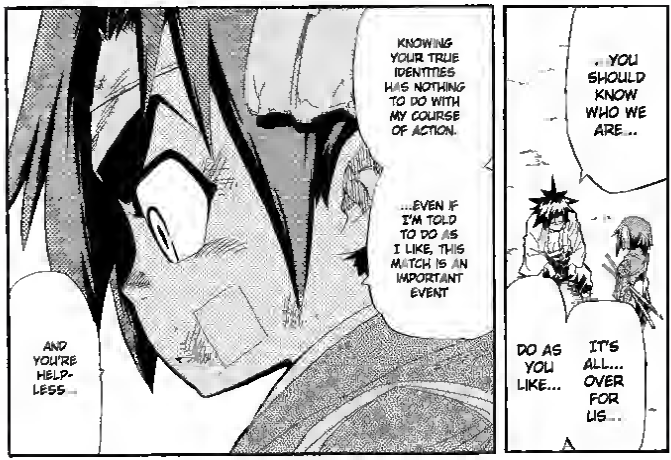
YES...
WHICH BRINGS US TO THEIR RECENT ESCAPE FROM EXILE, HUH.
WHAT SHALL WE DO?

BUT THEY MANAGED TO AVOID BEING BEHEADED BY FRAMING A LONE BUSHI AS THEIR "LEADER."
IN THE PAST, THEY LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE KOBUKAN AND WERE CAPTURED...

HM...
NOW THEN... WHAT TO DO...

THERE COULD BE AN UPROAR IF THIS SITUATION ISN'T HANDLED CAREFULLY, PUTTING THIS TOURNAMENT IN RISK OF CANCELLATION...
LETTING THEM RUN FREE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT...


HAA
...


...YOU SHOULD KNOW WHO WE ARE...
IT'S ALL.... OVER FOR US...
DO AS YOU LIKE...
KNOWING YOUR TRUE IDENTITIES HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY COURSE OF ACTION.
...EVEN IF I'M TOLD TO DO AS I LIKE, THIS MATCH IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT
AND YOU'RE HELP-LESS...

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY THANKS INSTEAD.
I WAS ABLE TO CAST ASIDE MY WEAKNESSES AS A SWORDSMAN, AND FOR THAT I AM GRATEFUL.
.....
IF I WERE TO CONTINUE ON IN THAT STATE, I'M CERTAIN KIYOKI WOULD WIN
AND MORE IMPOR-TANTLY

MY DOJO WAS ESTABLISHED IN HOPES OF GETTING SHINO TO LIKE ME MORE,
SO IT WOULD BE POINTLESS IF I ENDED UP DOING SOMETHING TO MAKE HER CRY.

H
HEY...

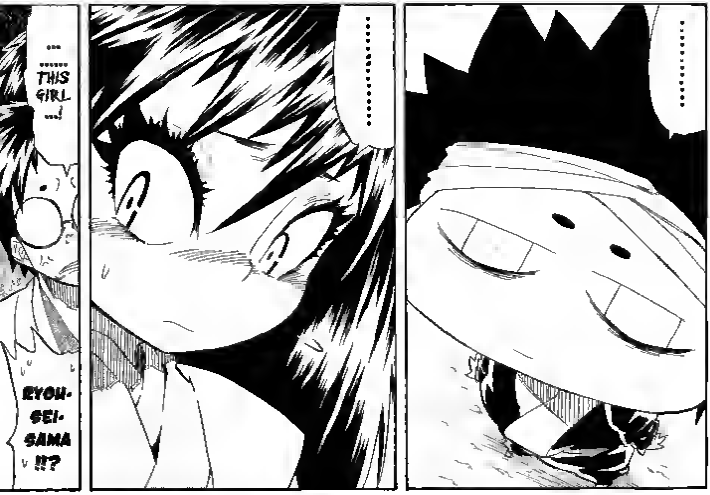
.....
SAYING IT WAS FOR HIS WIFE'S SAKE 'TILL THE VERY END, HUH...

AND SO...
WITH THAT BEING THE CASE, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.

WELL, IF YOU LIVE THROUGH THIS AND WE MEET UP SOMEWHERE,
WE SHOULD STOP BY THE TEA HOUSE TOGETHER.
I'M SURE A GUY LIKE YOU'D BE REAL COMFY THERE.

I WAS HOPING TO LET MOZUKUCCHI TAKE SOME, BUT...
IS THERE ANY OF IT LEFT?
THAT MEDICINE.

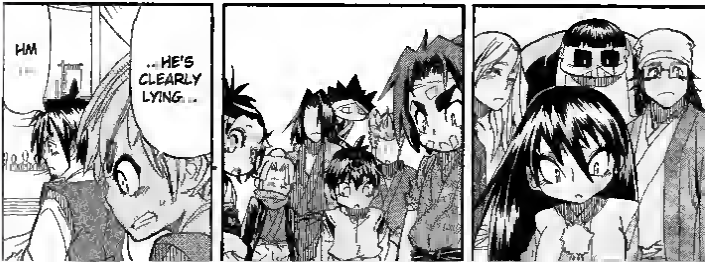
...HA HA!
I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE THIS SILK HAORI I GOT!
...THERE ISN'T A SINGLE THING THAT MADE ME GLAD TO HAVE JOINED THE KOBUKAN.
IF I HAD TO PICK SOME-THING, THEN...


...
.....
THIS GIRL...!
EYOU-SEI-SAMA!!?
.....
.....

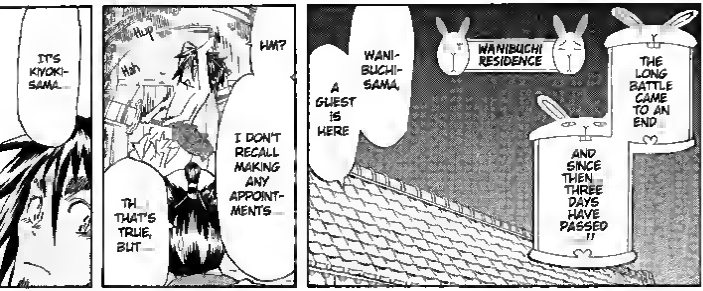
SO IF NOTHING ELSE, PLEASE LET ME ACT AS YOUR EYES!
I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY,
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, THE MOUNTAIN PATHS ARE DANGEROUS.
OH NO, I'LL BE OKAY ON MY OWN.
.....

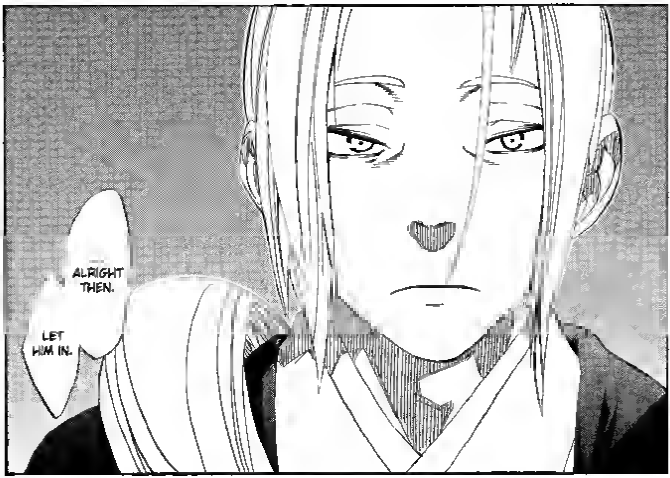
LISTEN UP!!!
I AM MOZUKU, ONE OF THE ESCAPED RONIN!!!
THE OTHER FOUR ARE HIDING IN THE CITY OF EDO!!
!! MO-ZU-KU!!?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAY-ING...

...IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
PLEASE LET ME DO THIS MUCH...
IF NOTHING ELSE...


HM
...HE'S CLEARLY LYING...

WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM INTO CUSTODY...
AND FOR NOW, I'LL KEEP THEM IN MY CARE


IT'S KIYOKI-SAMA...
HUH?
HM?
I DON'T RECALL MAKING ANY APPOINT-MENTS...
TH- THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
WANIBUCHI RESIDENCE
WANI-BUCHI-SAMA, A GUEST IS HERE
THE LONG BATTLE CAME TO AN END...
AND SINCE THEN, THREE DAYS HAVE PASSED !!


ALRIGHT THEN.
LET HIM IN.

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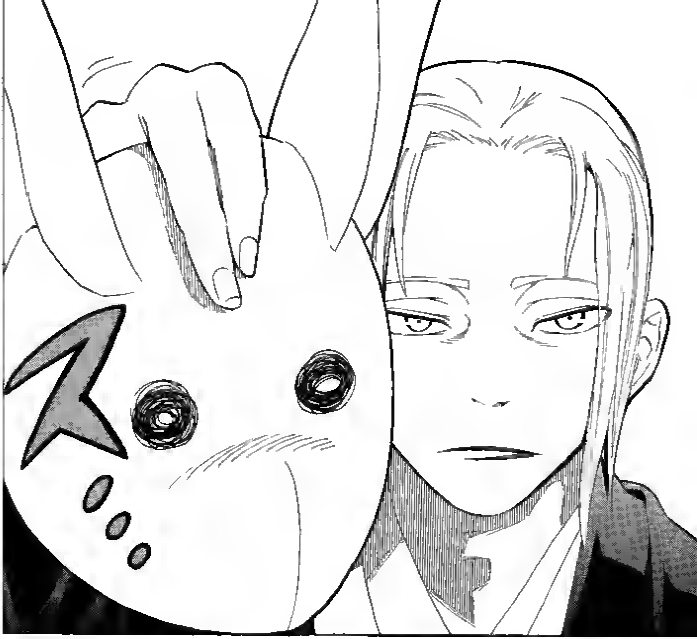
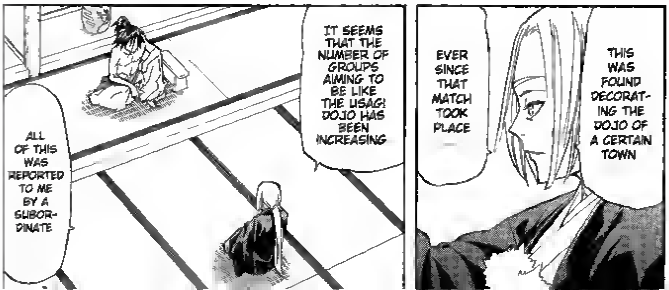
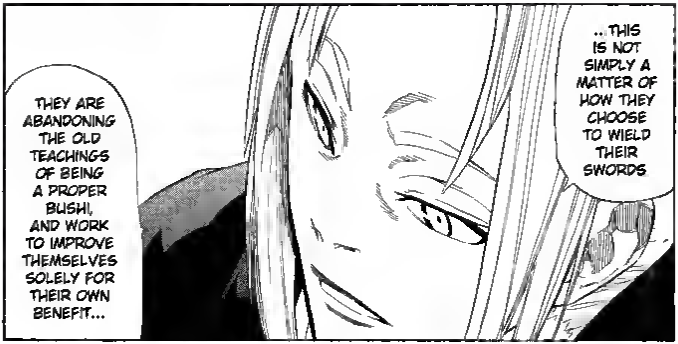
CHAPTER SIXTY-FOUR:
A SUDDEN VISITOR



...THAT'S A RABBIT MASK, ISN'T IT?
IT LOOKS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM THE USAGI DOJO'S, THOUGH...
IS THERE SOME PROBLEM WITH IT?

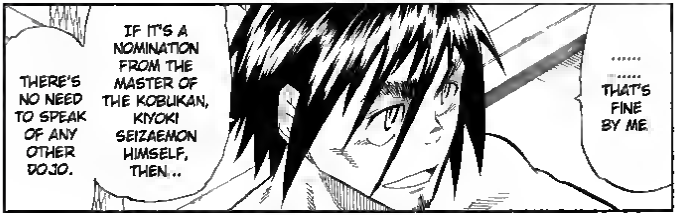

THIS WAS FOUND DECORATING THE DOJO OF A CERTAIN TOWN
EVER SINCE THAT MATCH TOOK PLACE...
IT SEEMS THAT THE NUMBER OF GROUPS AIMING TO BE LIKE THE USAGI DOJO HAS BEEN INCREASING
ALL OF THIS WAS REPORTED TO ME BY A SUBORDINATE.

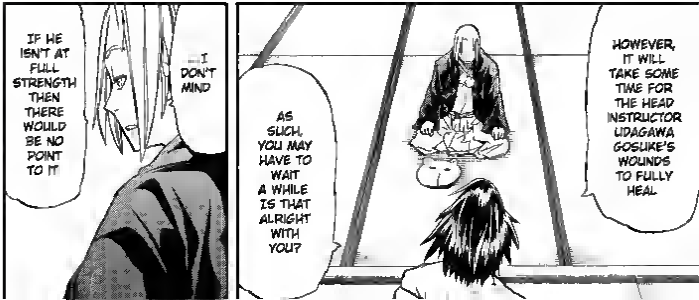

...THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF HOW THEY CHOOSE TO WIELD THEIR SWORDS
THEY ARE ABANDONING THE OLD TEACHINGS OF BEING A PROPER BUSHI, AND WORK TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES SOLELY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT...

THIS IDEOLOGY WHICH THREATENS TO THROW OUR WORLD INTO CHAOS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO RISE UP.
THE SAME CAN BE SAID... FOR THE USAGI DOJO.

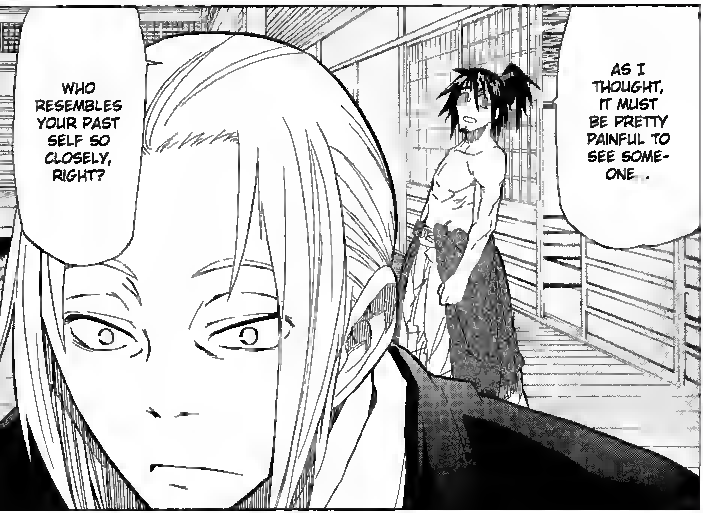
IT'S TAKING YOU AN AWFULLY LONG TIME TO MAKE YOUR POINT...
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

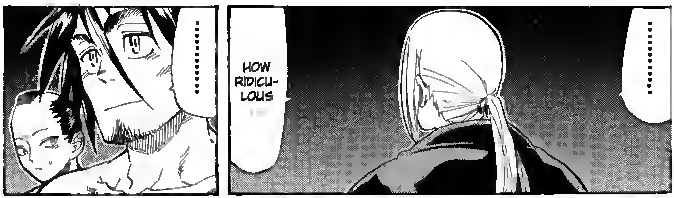
I WISH TO FIGHT IN A MATCH AGAINST THE USAGI DOJO
SO THAT I MAY TEACH THIS FACT TO THOSE AMBITIOUS DOJOS ..
AND ALL THE WORTHLESS BUSHI IN THIS WORLD.


.... THAT'S FINE BY ME
IF IT'S A NOMINATION FROM THE MASTER OF THE KOBUKAN, KIYOKI SEIZAEMON HIMSELF, THEN..
THERE'S NO NEED TO SPEAK OF ANY OTHER DOJO.


HOWEVER, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE HEAD INSTRUCTOR UDAGAWA GOSUKE'S WOUNDS TO FULLY HEAL
AS SUCH, YOU MAY HAVE TO WAIT A WHILE IS THAT ALRIGHT WITH YOU?
..I DON'T MIND
IF HE ISN'T AT FULL STRENGTH THEN THERE WOULD BE NO POINT TO IT

THEN...
I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE...
GOT IT.
I'LL HAVE THE DETAILS FOR YOU IN FIVE DAYS.
.....
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU BEFORE YOU GO...


AS I THOUGHT, IT MUST BE PRETTY PAINFUL TO SEE SOMEONE...
WHO RESEMBLES YOUR PAST SELF SO CLOSELY, RIGHT?


.....
HOW RIDICULOUS...
.....

IS THIS SUITABLE FOR YOU, UDAGAWA-DONO?
THE MATCH WILL TAKE PLACE IN ONE MONTH.
WITH THAT SAID,
I AM HUMBLY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR...
TAKING MY INJURIES INTO CONSIDERATION!!!
YES SIR!!
A PERSONAL REQUEST
FROM KIYOKI HIMSELF...
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING
THE USUGI DOJO'S SUCCESS!!
HM?
THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION, BUT...
IN THAT CASE, WE'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT...
OH...AND APART FROM MY POSITION AS AN ORGANIZER FOR THIS EVENT...

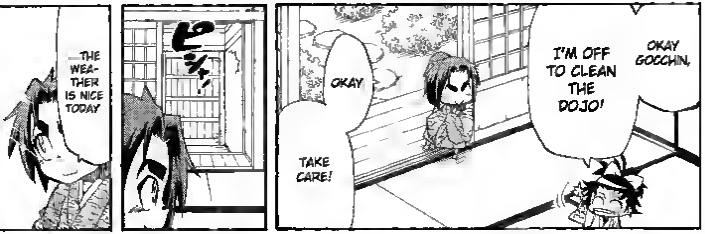
YES SIR!
.....
I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY SO!!!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDER-ATION, MADAM...
BUT YOU SEE-
TH... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME!!
GOOD ...
NOW THEN, LET'S MEET AGAIN AT THE CASTLE.

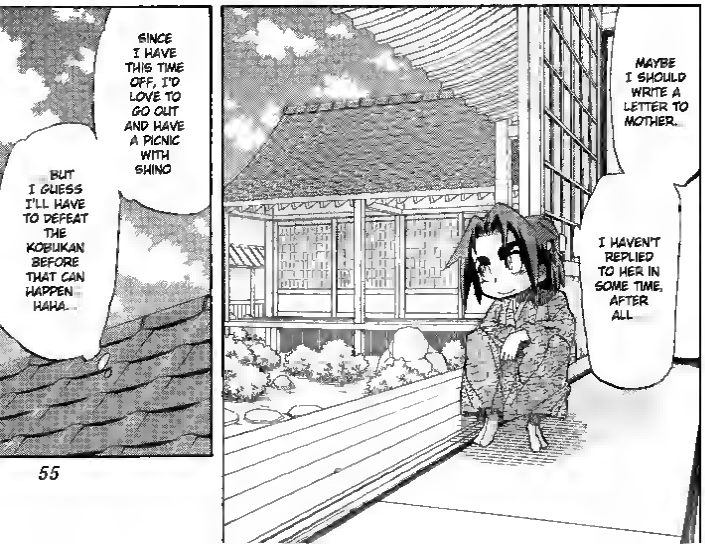
TAE IN THE JAPANESE TEXT HE CALLS SHINO 'GOSHINZOU-SAMA', WHICH WAS A WAY OF REFERRING TO THE WIFE OF A WELL-KNOWN OR RECENTLY MARRIED MAN. I WAS UNSURE OF HOW TO HOW SHOW THIS DIFFERENCE IN ENGLISH, AND DEC 'ED TO GO WITH SOMETHING POLITE BUT UNCOMMON IN REGULAR SPEECH (FOR CANADIANS AT LEAST, HAHA.)

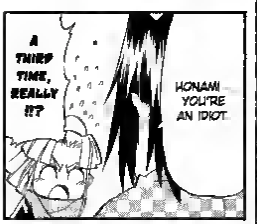
!
WELL, IN YOUR CASE...
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU MARRIED INTO HIS FAMILY.
NO, A BETTER WAY OF SAYING WOULD BE...
...SO YOU'VE NEVER BEEN CALLED THAT, HUH...
WHEN YOU SAY MADAM, DO YOU MEAN ME?
IT'S THE PROPER WAY OF REFERRING TO THE WIFE OF A LOWER RANKING BUSHI, BUT...

IT'S GOOD THAT HE BECAME YOUR HUSBAND.
AT THE CASTLE, THAT UDAGAWA GOSUKE WAS A BIT FAMOUS FOR A VERY PARTICULAR REASON...
BUT IN THAT MEETING JUST NOW... I DIDN'T SEE A SINGLE HINT OF HESITANCE FROM HIM.
EH HE HE!
WELL THEN...
BUT I SUPPOSE THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
YOU SHOULDN'T ADMIT DEFEAT EITHER!
NO... WAIT! HANG ON A SEC!!!
RATHER THAN 'REPEATING', IT'S MORE LIKE... I WAS TOLD TO TELL THEM THAT!! IT'S TRUE!!!
PLEASE MOVE AWAY FROM US...
...YOU'RE THE WORST.
AND THAT'S BECAUSE I WAS
REPEATING WHAT WANIBUCHI-SAMA SAID!!
WHAT WAS THAT, MIZUNO-SAN!!
YOU WENT AND SAID SOMETHING NICE ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
YEAH!
I REALLY DID SAY SOME THING NICE!!

THAT'S THE LAST OF THE LAUNDRY!!
GOOD
HA-!!

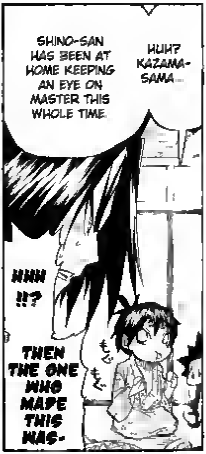

...THE WEATHER IS NICE TODAY
OKAY
TAKE CARE!
I'M OFF TO CLEAN THE DOJO!
OKAY GOCCHIN.


SINCE I HAVE THIS TIME OFF, I'D LOVE TO GO OUT AND HAVE A PICNIC WITH SHINO
BUT I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT THE KOBUKAN BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN HAHA...
MAYBE I SHOULD WRITE A LETTER TO MOTHER...
I HAVEN'T REPLIED TO HER IN SOME TIME, AFTER ALL

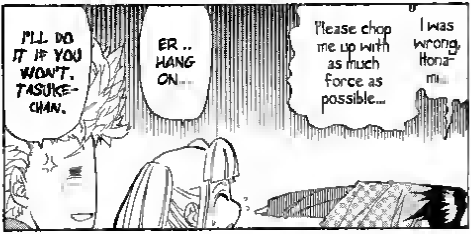


TN: AS WITH CHIYORIGH, KAZAMA HAS APPLIED THE HONORIFIC 'O' TO SHINO'S NAME

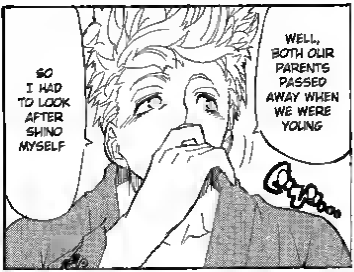
THANKS FOR THIS, SEITSUAN
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, HANZOU
YOU'RE LETTING ME JOIN IN, EVEN THOUGH I NEVER GOT TO BEAT ANYONE UP.
THIS IS OUR VICTORY PARTY, SO GO AHEAD AND ENJOY IT!!
YOU'RE SO GENEROUS, SEITSU-SAMA!!
THE FOOD IS REALLY GOOD


SHINO-SAN HAS BEEN AT HOME KEEPING AN EYE ON MASTER THIS WHOLE TIME.
HUH? KAZAMA-SAMA...
HHH !!?
THEN THE ONE WHO MADE THIS WAS-

STILL, I'M REALLY SURPRISED THAT YOU CAN COOK SO WELL, SETTSU-SAMA!!!


I'LL DO IT IF YOU WON'T, TASUKE-CHAN.
ER.. HANG ON...
Please chop me up with as much force as possible...
I was wrong, Itona-m...

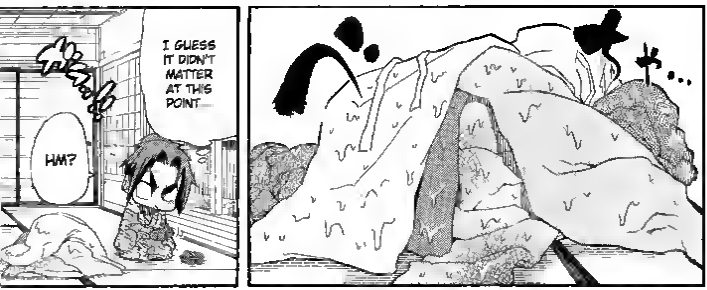
JUST HOW LOW AM I IN THE EYES OF YOU JERKS ...!?
Whack
Whack
WHICH MEANS YOU MUST HAVE TAUGHT HER HOW TO DO VARIOUS THINGS AND WORKED HER REALLY HARD, RIGHT!!!
Nom nom


SO I HAD TO LOOK AFTER SHINO MYSELF
WELL, BOTH OUR PARENTS PASSED AWAY WHEN WE WERE YOUNG
Ohhhhh

I DIDN'T REALLY TEACH SHINO ANYTHING.
ONE DAY, SOME TASTY LOOKING FOOD WAS JUST SITTING THERE BY THE TIME I CAME HOME FROM THE DOJO.
MAYBE SHE RE-MEMBERED IT FROM SOMEWHERE, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN.
HM MN ...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE HER.
SURE DOES.
I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM MY LITTLE SISTER.
NO MATTER WHAT I EAT, IT ALL TASTES GOOD...
GOD DAMN IT...
THEN SPIT IT OUT, YOU BASTARD !!!!
.....

T/N: ZORI ARE A TYPE OF JAPANESE FOOTWEAR SIMILAR TO FLIP-FLOPS. POKKURI ARE THE TYPE SHINO USUALLY HAS ON, WHICH WERE TRADITIONALLY WORN BY YOUNG GIRLS OR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS. THEY'RE ALSO KNOWN AS KOKKURI.

NOW THEN, I'D BETTER HURRY!!
I'LL HAVE TO FIX THEM AFTER THIS!
DID SHE GO OUT WEARING ZORI, THEN?
THE STRAP ON SHINO'S POKKURI IS BROKEN

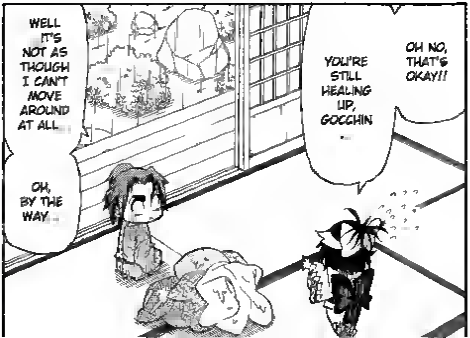


OH ...
THE LAUN-DRY IS

Ha ...
Ha ...

I DIDN'T BRING IT IN QUICK ENOUGH
I'M SORRY, SHINO ..
YES

I FIXED THE STRAP
ON YOUR POK-KURI

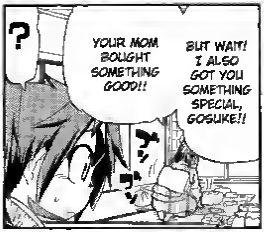

WELL IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I CAN'T MOVE AROUND AT ALL
OH, BY THE WAY ..
YOU'RE STILL HEALING UP, GOCCHIN ..
OH NO, THAT'S OKAY!!

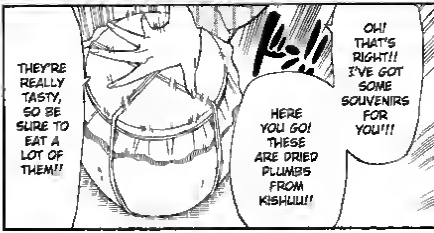
I WAS REALLY TROUBLED BY THIS!!
THANKS A LOT, GOCCHIN!!!
AH...
.....
GUU!!
....
ONCE I GET CHANGED
I'VE GOTTA HEAD OVER TO THE DOJO AND CLEAN UP!!
AH- DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!!
YOU HAVE TO REST, GOCCHIN!!
I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO CHANGE INTO...
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU STAY LIKE THAT...

HELLO OOO!
I'M HERE ♡
OOOOOOOOOOOOOO
.....?

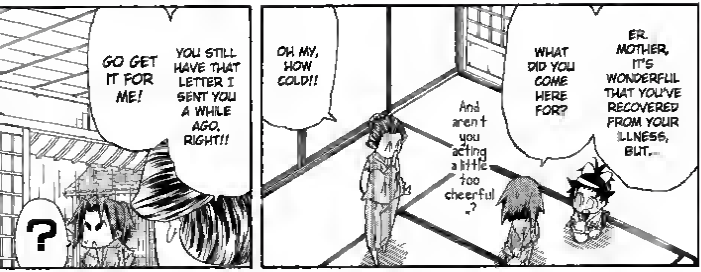
MO-
THER
!!!!?
NU
FU
FU!
SUCH AN
OBVIOUS
REACTION!
WHA
...
IS YOUR
BODY
ALRIGHT
NOW?
EDO WAS
MAKING
ME FEEL
UNWELL,
AND
GOING
AWAY
FOR A
WHILE
SEEMS
TO HAVE
HELPED.
THIS
IS...
YOUR
MOM,
GOG-
CHIN
...?
Y...
YES...
SHE WAS
RECUPER-
ATING IN
KISHUU
...
YOU
MUST
BE
SHINO-
CHAN!!
I'M SO
SORRY!
I WASN'T
FEELING
WELL UNTIL
RECENTLY,
SO THIS IS
OUR FIRST
MEETING!
OH MY,
YOU'RE
SO
CUTE~
BUT!
ARE
YOU
REALLY
...
SUITABLE
TO BE AN
UDAGAWA
BRIDE...?

AS IF I'D THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
JUST KIDDING!!!
THE UDAGAWA FAMILY IS NOTHING SPECIAL IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
EEK!
Get the hell outta here!
EVEN DURING WARTIME, ALL THEIR ANCESTORS DID WAS RUN AROUND SCARED!!
HIS ANCESTOR UDAGAWA GOHEE
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THEM...
IT'S A BIT OF A LET-DOWN...


?
YOUR MOM BOUGHT SOMETHING GOOD!!
BUT WAIT! I ALSO GOT YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL, GOSUKE!!


OH! THAT'S RIGHT!! I'VE GOT SOME SOUVENIRS FOR YOU!!!
HERE YOU GO! THESE ARE DRIED PLUMBS FROM KISHUU!!
THEY'RE REALLY TASTY, SO BE SURE TO EAT A LOT OF THEM!!

HERE YOU GO!
I'M SURE YOU'D SEEM A LITTLE BIT COOLER IF YOU DRESSED FASHIONABLY LIKE THIS!!


YOU STILL HAVE THAT LETTER I SENT YOU A WHILE AGO, RIGHT!!
GO GET IT FOR ME!
?
OH MY, HOW COLD!!
And aren't you acting a little too cheerful...?
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?
ER. MOTHER, IT'S WONDERFUL THAT YOU'VE RECOVERED FROM YOUR ILLNESS, BUT...

T/N: FROM RIGHT TO LEFT THE HIGHLIGHTED TEXT READS 'I'LL BE LIVING WITH YOU' IN THIS CONTEXT

SAMURAI USAGI SCANLATION

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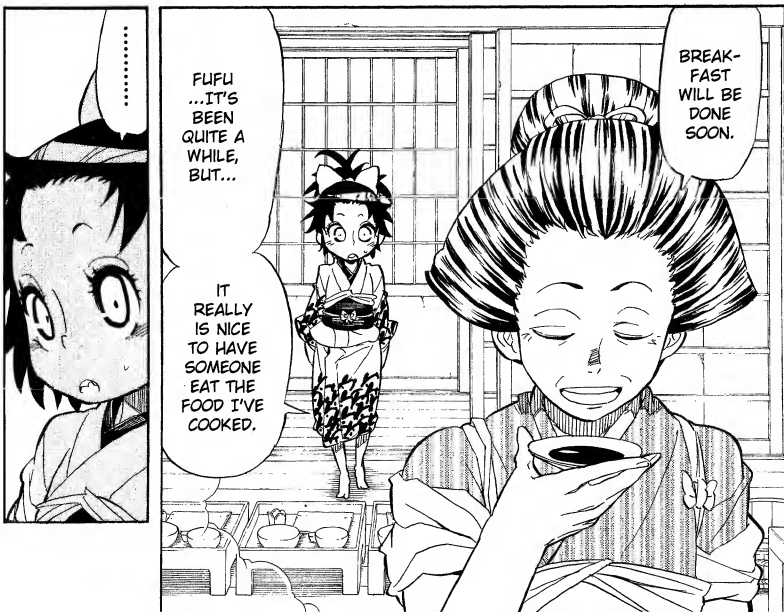
suscanlation.blogspot.ca

FOR ANY IN-DEPTH INQUIERES, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME PERSONALLY THROUGH E-MAIL.

qrrbrbirlbel@hotmail.com

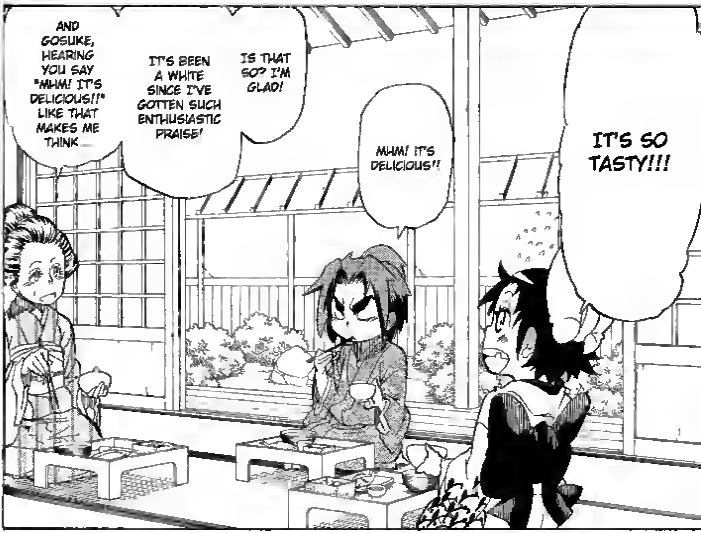
CHAPTER SIXTY-FIVE: SHINO AND MOTHER

OH, GOOD MORNING SHINO-CHAN!
トントントン
JUST WAIT A BIT, OKAY?


BREAK-FAST WILL BE DONE SOON.
FUFU ...IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, BUT...
IT REALLY IS NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE EAT THE FOOD I'VE COOKED.
.....

I-
I'M SO SORRY!!
ばっ!!
?
THIS IS SO SUDDEN, WHAT'S WRONG?
B... BUT...
IT... IT'S BAD OF ME TO NOT DO IT...
IT'S LIKE I'M FORCING YOU TO LOOK AFTER THE HOUSE...
AHAHA! IS THAT ALL?
IT'S FINE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH!
I'M JUST AN OLD WOMAN DOING AS I PLEASE!
HAVE A SEAT AND WAIT FOR THE TEA!
IT'LL BE DONE IN JUST A MINUTE!!

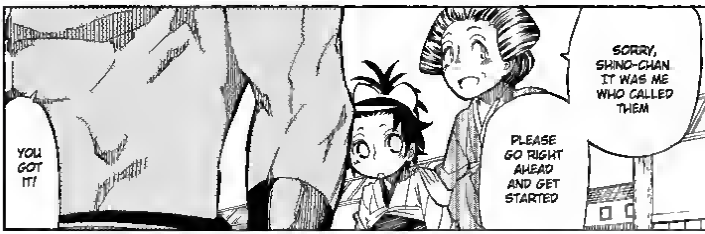
ぱく!!!

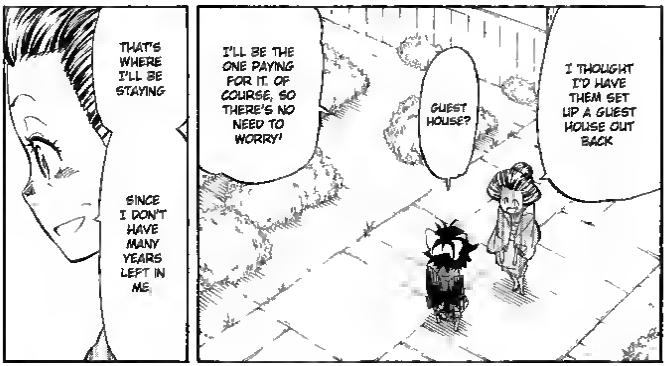

IT'S SO TASTY!!!
MUM! IT'S DELICIOUS!!
IS THAT SO? I'M GLAD!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE GOTTEN SUCH ENTHUSIASTIC PRAISE!
AND GOSUKE, HEARING YOU SAY "MUM! IT'S DELICIOUS!!" LIKE THAT MAKES ME THINK....

THAT YOU'VE REALLY BECOME LIKE YOUR FATHER!!
YOUR HAIRLINE ESPECIALLY
EH!!?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU SHOULD FINISH EATING QUICKLY
YOU'RE GOING TO THE CASTLE TODAY, RIGHT?
YOU'LL BE LATE IF YOU DON'T HURRY!!
!!

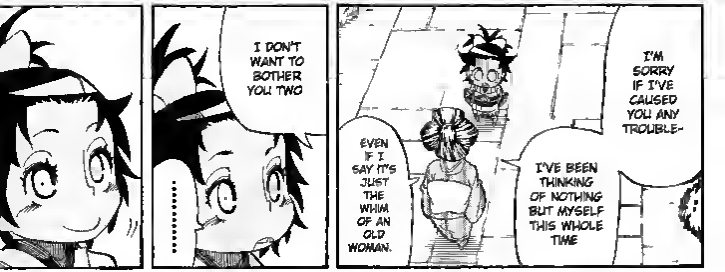
I'M SO SORRY, GOCCHIN!!
I HAVEN'T MADE YOUR LUNCH YET!!
OH,
HUH? SHINO, WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY'RE YOU PANICKING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
ぱっ!!!
THANK YOU, MOTHER.
OH...
AH...
IT'S RICE BALLS FILLED WITH DRIED PLUMBS! THEY'RE TASTY!!
I'VE ALREADY MADE IT...
IT'S OKAY SHINO-CHAN
GOOD MORNIN'!!
?
.....
I'M OFF.
TAKE CARE!
OKAY, HAVE A NICE DAY

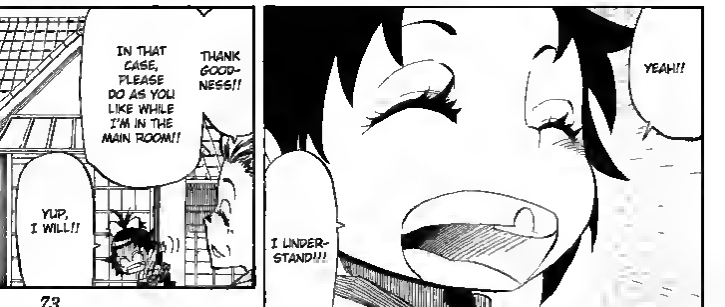
HELLO THERE
WE'LL JUST GET STRAIGHT TO WORK IF YOU DON'T MIND!
BUT THE HOUSE ISN'T DAMAGED ANY-WHERE, IS IT?
.....?


SORRY, SHINO-CHAN IT WAS ME WHO CALLED THEM
PLEASE GO RIGHT AHEAD AND GET STARTED
YOU GOT IT!


I THOUGHT I'D HAVE THEM SET UP A GUEST HOUSE OUT BACK
GUEST HOUSE?
I'LL BE THE ONE PAYING FOR IT. OF COURSE, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY!
THAT'S WHERE I'LL BE STAYING
SINCE I DON'T HAVE MANY YEARS LEFT IN ME

...RATHER THAN BEING ALL ALONE IN KISHUU...
I WANT TO PASS ON HERE, WHERE MY HUSBAND AND I LIVED TOGETHER!


I'M SORRY IF I'VE CAUSED YOU ANY TROUBLE-
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF NOTHING BUT MYSELF THIS WHOLE TIME
EVEN IF I SAY IT'S JUST THE WHIM OF AN OLD WOMAN.
I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU TWO
.....


THANK GOODNESS!!
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE DO AS YOU LIKE WHILE I'M IN THE MAIN ROOM!!
YUP, I WILL!!
YEAH!!
I UNDERSTAND!!!

FUFU... IT'S JUST LIKE GOSUKE SAID IN HIS LETTERS...
SUCH A GOOD GIRL...

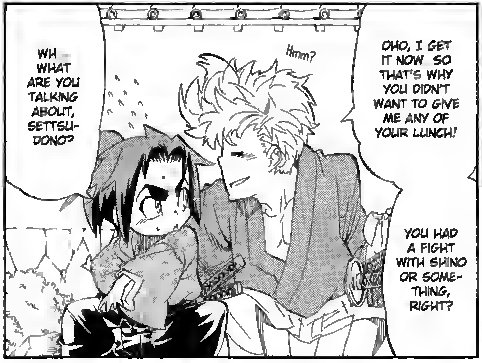
I I'M SO HUNGRY

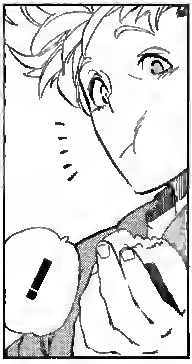
A GEISHA I'M FRIENDLY WITH NEEDED A COMB, SO, YOU KNOW
Buy this for me ♥
TWO RYO!!?
That's cheap! Really cheap!
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha

OH, SETTSU-DONO?
I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY
YOU'RE SO COLD, GOSUKE-CHAN! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD MY REASON YET!
I'M ALL OUT OF CASH

HEE HEEEE ...I AM TRULY THANK-FUL!!!
GOOD GRIEF. ALRIGHT THEN...

PLEASE GRANT ME YOUR COMPAS-SION!!!
GOSUKE-SAMA, I BEG OF YOU!!!
I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY
I WAS THINKING THAT WAS THE CASE, WHICH IS WHY
もぐもぐ
もぐもぐ


WH WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SETTSU-DONO?
Hmm?
OHO, I GET IT NOW SO THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE ME ANY OF YOUR LUNCH!
YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH SHINO OR SOME-THING, RIGHT?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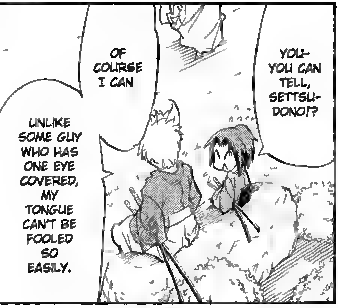
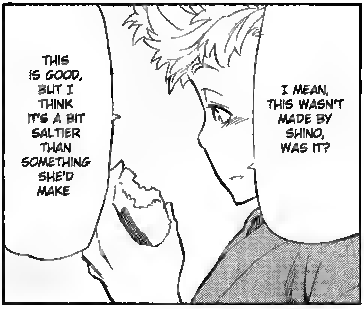
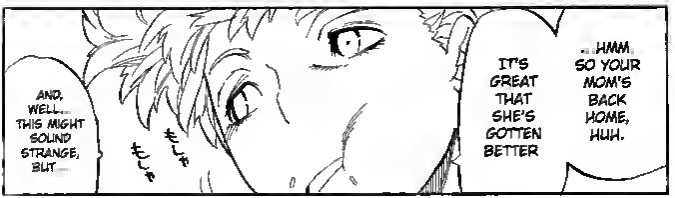
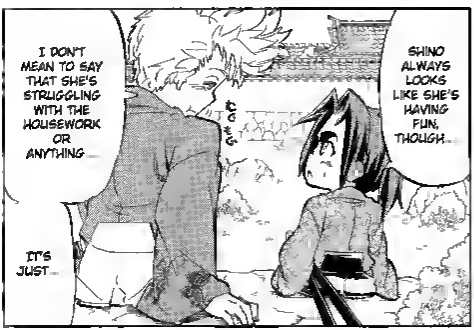

OF COURSE I CAN
YOU-YOU CAN TELL, SETTSU-DONO!?
UNLIKE SOME GUY WHO HAS ONE EYE COVERED, MY TONGUE CAN'T BE FOOLED SO EASILY.


THIS IS GOOD, BUT I THINK IT'S A BIT SALTIER THAN SOMETHING SHE'D MAKE
I MEAN, THIS WASN'T MADE BY SHINO, WAS IT?

UWA AAA AAA AAA !!!!
WHAT'S WRONG, KAZAMA-KUN!!?
S... SORRY ...
I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING AWFUL...
JEEZ... RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET ...
I'LL DICE YOU INTO LITTLE PIECES IF YOU DO THAT AGAIN.
... YOU ARE ONE SCARY GUY.

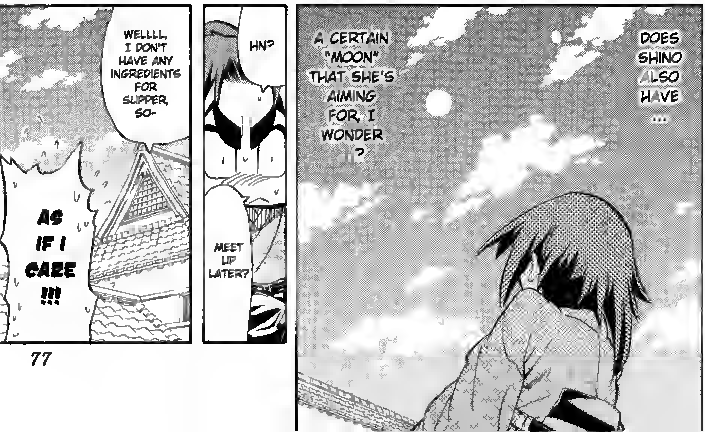

... HMM. SO YOUR MOM'S BACK HOME, HUH.
IT'S GREAT THAT SHE'S GOTTEN BETTER
AND, WELL... THIS MIGHT SOUND STRANGE, BUT...
もじゃ


I DON'T MEAN TO SAY THAT SHE'S STRUGGLING WITH THE HOUSEWORK OR ANYTHING...
IT'S JUST...
SHINO ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING FUN, THOUGH...
もじゃ

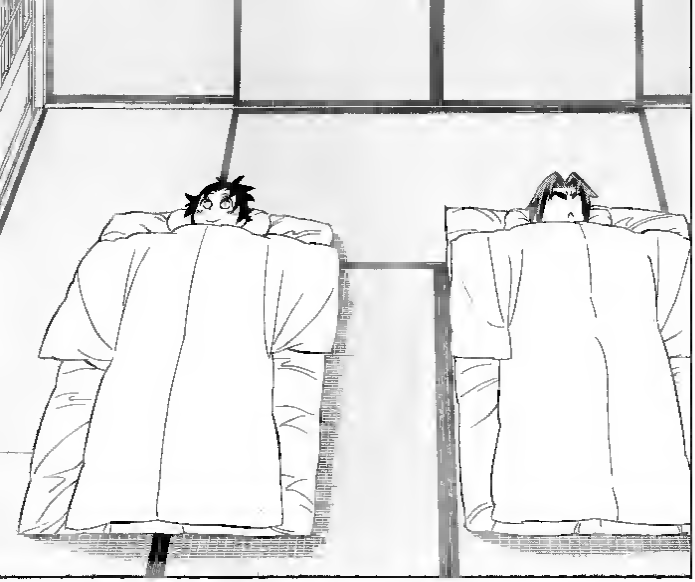
IF YOUR MOM'S LIVING WITH THE TWO OF YOU, THEN
THAT SHOULD MAKE THINGS A LITTLE EASIER FOR SHINO, RIGHT?
HUH?
もじゃ

IT'S NOT AS IF IT COMES NATURALLY TO HER.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, EVEN SHE HAS TO PUT IN EFFORT AND THINK "I'LL DO IT" FOR THESE THINGS.
I'LL MEET UP WITH YOU AGAIN LATER.
THANKS FOR LUNCH.
.....
I KNOW FULL WELL HOW MUCH HARD WORK SHINO CAN PUT INTO THINGS...
OF COURSE ...
BUT ...

GUESS WHAT? THE REASON WHY RABBITS ALWAYS HOP.
IS BECAUSE THEY'RE WORKING HARD TO JUMP TO THE MOON!!

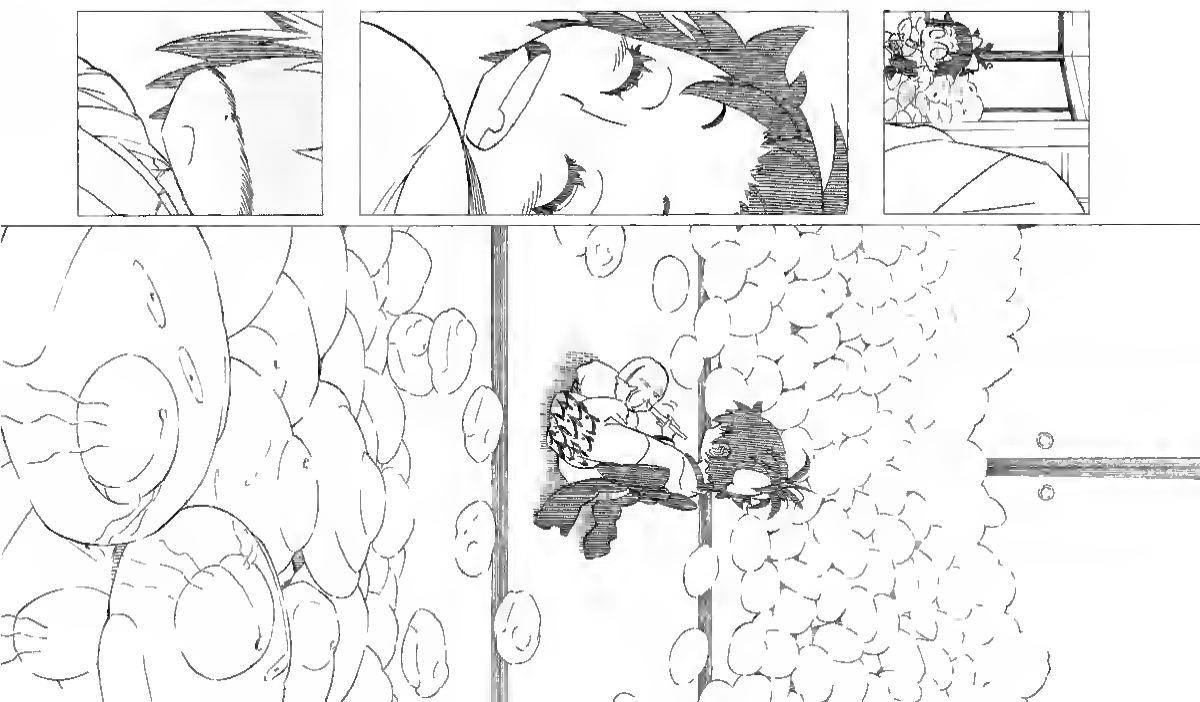

DOES SHINO ALSO HAVE ...
A CERTAIN "MOON" THAT SHE'S AIMING FOR, I WONDER ...?
HN?
MEET UP LATER?
WELLLL, I DON'T HAVE ANY INGREDIENTS FOR SUPPER, SO-
AS IF I CARE !!!

WOW!!
IT'S ALREADY LIKE THIS AFTER JUST ONE DAY!!
へえ
へえ
SHINO-CHAN, SUPPER!
COME-ING!!
IT'S SO TASTY!!
MMM! IT'S DELICIOUS!!
OH MY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
GOOD NIGHT!!
OKAY, GOOD NIGHT!!
ピシャ!!



MOM'S SO NICE..
TODAY WAS SUPER HECTIC...

I'D BETTER GET TO SLEEP AS WELL!!
EH HE HE!
GOCCHIN'S FAST ASLEEP...



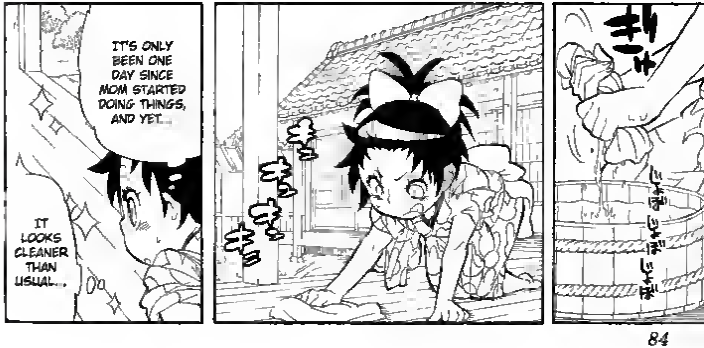
ナッ!!

BUT...
N-NO, NOT AT ALL!!
AM I BEING A BOTHER AFTER ALL?
OH...
YOU SHOULD REST A LITTLE BIT!!
I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE CHORES!!
EH HE HE HE!!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
I'LL BE FINISHED QUICKLY
HUH? BUT THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH!
I'LL DO IT, SO DON'T WORRY!!
UNDERSTOOD!
I'LL JUST HANG THESE UP TO DRY FIRST!

HA !!!
TAKE THAT !!!

AND LEAVE CLEANING AND COOKING UP TO YOU!
NOW THEN, I'LL GO REST
がしゃん!!!

GOCCHIN'S MOM IS...
AMAZ-ING...


IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE DAY SINCE MOM STARTED DOING THINGS, AND YET...
IT LOOKS CLEANER THAN USUAL...
きゅ
じょぼじょぼじょぼ

ﾌｯ…
LET'S HAVE A TASTE!!
ALL DONE!
ぐっ
……
THIS DOESN'T TASTE VERY GOOD, HUH…

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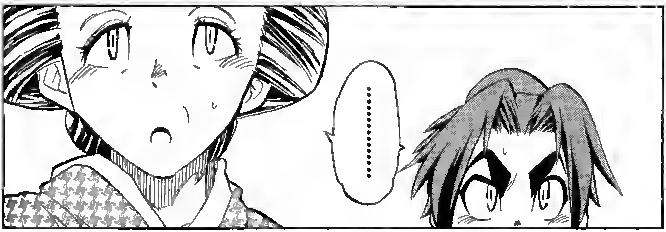
CHAPTER SIXTY-SIX: RABBIT IN THE GARDEN

IT WAS ONLY JUST FINISHED, BUT I'LL CLEAN THE GUEST HOUSE FOR YOU TOO!!
OH, BY THE WAY MOM!!
EH?

I'LL BE DOING IT EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT HAS TO BE DONE TODAY...
IT'S TRUE THAT THE GARDEN SHOULD BE WEEDED NOW AND THEN...


.....

HO OO !!?

?

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HER A HAND!?
I BET YOU RELY ON SHINO-CHAN FOR EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU!!
N... NO, YOU SEE...
WHY ARE YOU GIVING THAT KIND OF EXPLAN-ATION FOR THIS!!?
WHA ...!!?
THIS IS THE "LION" FIST
THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN BY THE UDAGAWA FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS
EVER SINCE YOU ARRIVED HERE, SHE...
BUT LATELY NO...
.....
I DO TRY TO HELP SHINO OUT MOST OF THE TIME, AND SHE USUALLY DOESN'T REFUSE ME...
I KNOW THIS MAY SOUND LIKE AN EXCUSE, BUT...
OH, MOM!
IT'S OKAY, I CAN HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF!!
SAY, SHINO-CHAN...
HN NN GH.
THESE ROOTS ARE SO THICK...!

WHEN IT COMES TO CHORES, EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT WAY OF DOING THINGS.
THERE'S NO RIGHT OR WRONG.
?
YOU SEEM TO BE ODDLY ENTHUSIASTIC, SO I WAS JUST A BIT CONCERNED.
OH NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
THAT BOY HAS ABSOLUTELY NO KNACK FOR DOING HOUSE-WORK,
SO HIS FUTURE PROSPECTS MAY BE A BIT UN-CERTAIN
BUT YOU KNOW,
HAS THE ELDERLY INTUITION PASSED DOWN BY THE UPAGAWA FAMILY STEEEEP ME NEONG!!?
OH DEAR !!!
YOU ARE
THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE WON'T DO A GOOD JOB COMPARED TO YOU OR I, SHINO-CHAN.
I'M SORRY IF I'M WRONG, THOUGH

UM, YOU SEE..
I WANT TO BE MORE LIKE YOU, MOM...
SO I'D RATHER DO IT ALONE!!
EH HEHE HE!!
IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT YOU LET HIM HELP A LITTLE...?
NO
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD GIRL, SHINO-CHAN
WHAT!!? BUT JUST NOW, YOU ...OVER THERE...
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE!!!
HM.. I SEE
..AND THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID!
THEN IT WOULD JUST BE A BOTHER
IF I INSISTED ON HELPING HER-

.....

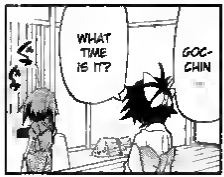
NOPE! YOU CAN GO TO SLEEP AHEAD OF ME!
I'M JUST WIPING DOWN THE PORCH!
HM? SHINO, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BED YET?

YUP!!
I LOVE 'EM!!
SHINO, YOU...
LIKE RABBITS, DON'T YOU?
.....

I'M OFF TO BED, THEN
OKAY.
GOOD NIGHT!
パタン!!
……?
……
AT FIRST,
I JUST THOUGHT SHE WAS THAT SORT OF PERSON BY NATURE
"A HARD-WORKING WIFE."
BUT AS TIME PASSED,
I HEARD ABOUT MANY THINGS FROM SETTSU-DONO
ドン
ドン
AND I STARTED TO THINK OF HER AS "A RABBIT WORKING HARD TO REACH THE MOON" INSTEAD
BUT NOT ONCE HAVE I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT SORT OF "MOON" SHINO WAS AIMING FOR.
NO.

IN TRUTH, I MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID THINKING ABOUT IT
BECAUSE THE FIRST SORT OF "MOON" TO COME TO MIND...
SEEMED UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT IT'S TIME
TO BE AWARE OF IT, UDAGAWA GOSUKE
YOU ARE
MN
SHINO'S HUSBAND

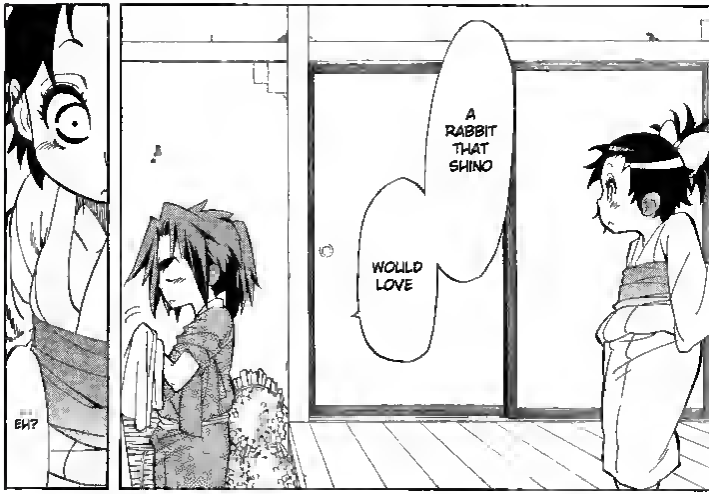
HNNN- I SURE SLEPT WELL!
NOW THEN, I'VE GOT TO GET STARTED ON BREAK-FAST!!
HUH ?
GOC-CHIN'S ALREADY
ガラッ!!!
ドン!!



TN: HOUR OF THE HORSE = 11 AM - 1 PM

GO AHEAD AND REST.
I GET THE FEELING YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD LATELY
I DON'T MIND
S SORRY, GOCCHIN!!
I OVER-SLEPT!!
I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST!!
I JUST WANT TO DO MY BEST!
EH HEHE HE!
I... I'M NOT PUSHING MYSELF OR ANY-THING!!
U... UM..
!?
YOU'RE ALSO
A RABBIT AIMING TO REACH THE MOON BY LEAPING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, AREN'T YOU?
SAY, SHINO

I WANTED TO BECOME THAT KIND OF RABBIT AS WELL.
THE REASON I OPENED THE USAGI DOJO WAS BECAUSE
I'M ALSO ?


EH?
A RABBIT THAT SHINO
WOULD LOVE

ZOOO
THE RABBITS
AIMING FOR THE MOON TOGETHER
TRYING THEIR BEST TOGETHER
THEY ALSO HAVE MANY OTHER GOOD POINTS
I LIKE THE HARDWORKING RABBITS AS WELL
AND AS I SPENT MORE TIME WITH YOU, I CAME TO LEARN THAT

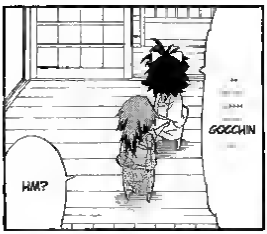
...ARE PUT AT EASE...
JUST BY STAY-ING BY EACH OTHER'S SIDE.

Y
YOU KNOW
.....
YOU... YOU'VE BECOME SO GREAT THAT EVEN PEOPLE FROM THE CASTLE WERE PRAISING YOU
THEN MOM SHOWED UP
AND FOR ONE WHOLE DAY SHE DID ALL THE CHORES WHILE I RESTED
ALL THAT
KIND OF SCARED ME
TO THE POINT WHERE I HAD A BAD DREAM
AH!
WELCOME HOME, GOCCHIN!!
ガラッ!
SH SHIHO UM... YOU SEE
THERE'S SOME-THING I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU...
?

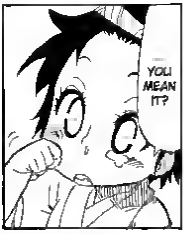
I THINK WE...
SHOULD SLEEP IN SEPARATE ROOMS FROM NOW ON...
.....
...SURE, I DON'T MIND
EHE HE...

THAT WAS RIGHT AFTER WE FIRST GOT MARRIED . BACK WHEN SHE WAS ALWAYS CRYING ..
.....
I'M SORRY
BUT FROM NOW ON NO MATTER WHAT
I'LL NEVER SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO YOU AGAIN
WE ARE
A... AND I THOUGHT YOU...
MIGHT END UP... TELLING ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN...

HUSBAND AND WIFE
WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER


GOCCHIN
HM?

I DO


YOU MEAN IT?

CAN I HUG YOU?

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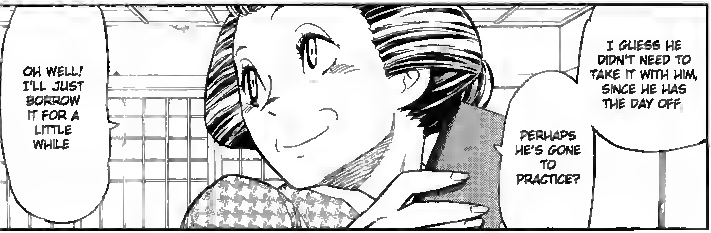
FINAL CHAPTER: SAMURAI USAGI


I GUESS HE DIDN'T NEED TO TAKE IT WITH HIM, SINCE HE HAS THE DAY OFF.
PERHAPS HE'S GONE TO PRACTICE?
OH WELL! I'LL JUST BORROW IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

FINAL CHAPTER: SAMURAI USAGI

...SO EVEN WANIBUCHI-SAMA HAS DAYS WHEN HE DOESN'T TRAIN HIMSELF...
SHH!
WANIBUCHI RESIDENCE
.....
.....
KIYOKI... NO...
TO SEI-ZAE-MON...
IF IT'S THE USAGI DOJO, THEN...
I'M SURE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH TO HIM...

HUH? CHIYO-BO.
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO PRACTICE TODAY?

NANANA VILLAGE

THIS YEAR'S NANA HERB HARVEST IS REALLY BIG, SO I WANT TO HELP!!
IT'S OK!!
IT GROWS LIKE THIS ALL YEAR 'ROUND, THOUGH

ふるふる

HM.
THE TASTE IS SUPER REFINED
BITTER
はむ!!

OH, I SEE. SHOULDN'T YOU BE TAKING IT EASY, THEN?
SO MASTER TOLD US ALL TO HAVE A GOOD REST TODAY!!
WE'RE FINALLY HAVING OUR MATCH AGAINST THE KOBUKAN TOMORROW.
NOPE!!

AND JUST PLAIN GROSS !!!
IS THAT SO? THE SAME AS USUAL, THEN
IT'S GOOD THAT THEY CAME OUT WELL.
.....
BUT ...
I THINK IT ACTUALLY TASTES REALLY GOOD!!!
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, CHIYOKO...
WELL, WHATEVER.
DO YOUR BEST IN TOMORROW'S MATCH!
I WILL !!!

HAA AAA AAA A!!!
HONMA MANSION
!!!

ELDER BRO-THER!!?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ELDER BRO-THER!?
I TRIED INCORPORATING THE "ROTATION" THEME OF OUR HONMA FAMILY'S INESCAPABLE SWORDSMANSHIP TECHNIQUES!!
ELDER BRO-THER?
I WAS FINALLY ABLE... TO LAND A HIT... ON YOU...
... I DID IT!

.....

EH...
YOU... WANT ME TO DO IT TOO...?

HONAMI RESIDENCE

OF COURSE I DO, YOU FOOL!!
AFTER ALL THE LOCAL PEASANTS ASKED FOR THIS BANQUET TO BE HELD IN HONOR OF YOUR APPEARANCE IN TOMORROW'S MATCH...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO IF THERE'S NO ONE TO PUT ON A PERFORMANCE?!
.....
OH!
MY NOSE IS FRAIL, SO I'LL PROBABLY GET A NOSEBLEED RIGHT AWAY...
...WHY ARE YOU SAYING "OH!" AS IF YOU JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING GOOD!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD ENJOY THIS BANQUET WITHOUT GIVING PROPER THANKS-
I- I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS !!!
I PROMISE TO WIN
IN TOMORROW'S MATCH, OKAY?
...HMPH.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'LL TAKE OVER MY PERFORMANCE IF YOU LOSE.
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AT ALL !!!!

HANZOU'S RAW HOUSE
SO TOMOR-ROW'S THE DAY, HUH
...
HAA ...
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LOSE...
...I WON'T LOSE.

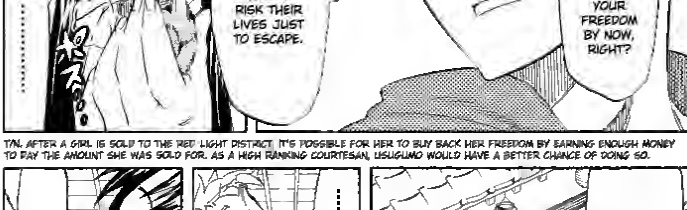
.....

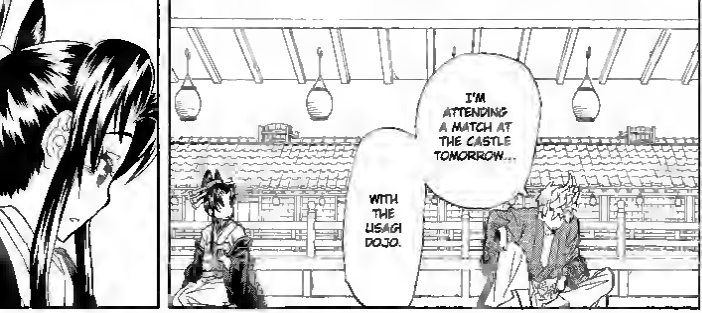
LET'S DO THIS !!!
WA!
HELL YEAH !!!

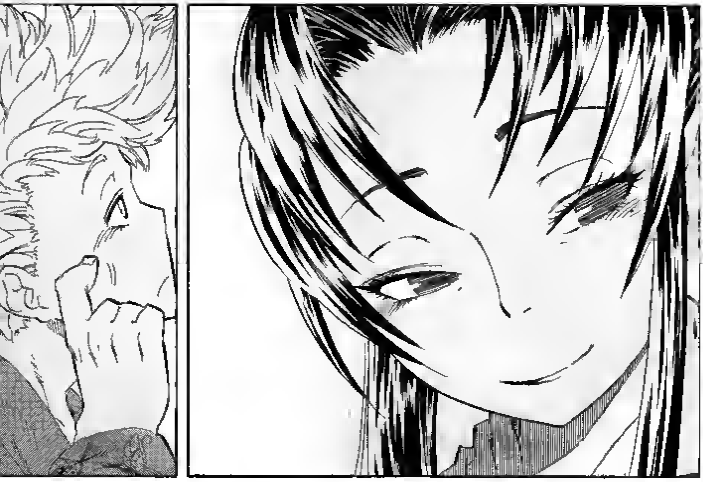
GIVEN HOW MUCH TIME YOU'VE SPENT HERE OVER THE YEARS, YOU MUST KNOW THAT IT IS.
MY, MY. WHAT'S COME OVER YOU SO SUDDENLY?
A NICE PLACE, YOU THINK?
IS YOSHI-WARA...

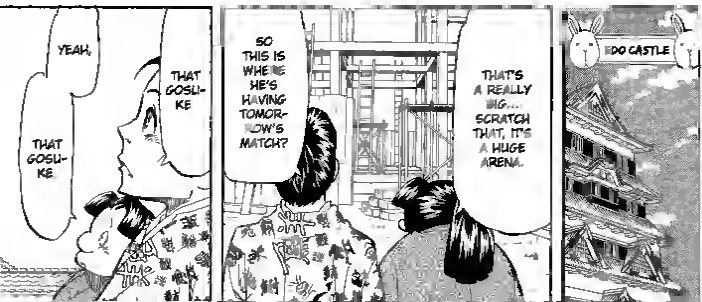
.....
HMPH
WHEN THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD RISK THEIR LIVES JUST TO ESCAPE.
BUT YOU'VE STAYED HERE ALL THIS TIME
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YOU SHOULD HAVE EARNED ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY YOUR FREEDOM BY NOW, RIGHT?

TN: AFTER A GIRL IS SOLD TO THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR HER TO BUY BACK HER FREEDOM BY EARNING ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE AMOUNT SHE WAS SOLD FOR. AS A HIGH RANKING COURTESAN, USUGUMO WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF DOING SO.




I'M ATTENDING A MATCH AT THE CASTLE TOMORROW...
WITH THE USAGI DOJO.

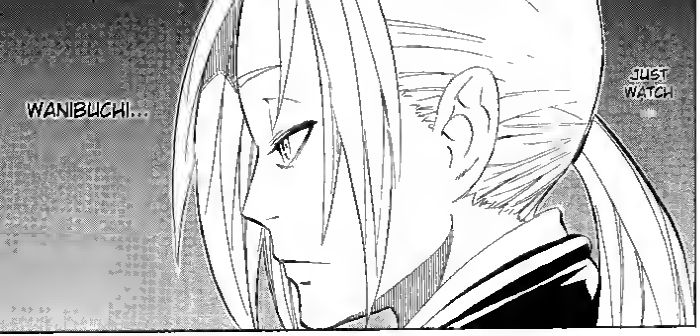


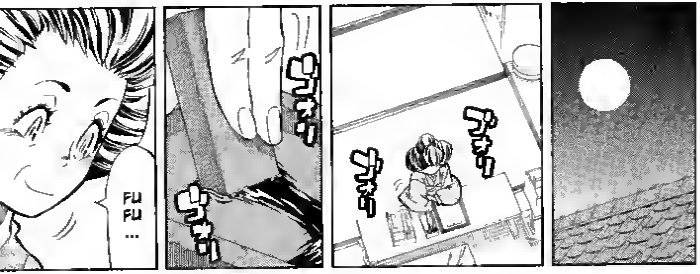

EDO CASTLE
THAT'S A REALLY BIG... SCRATCH THAT, IT'S A HUGE ARENA.
SO THIS IS WHERE HE'S HAVING TOMORROW'S MATCH?
THAT GOSUKE
YEAH,
THAT GOSUKE.

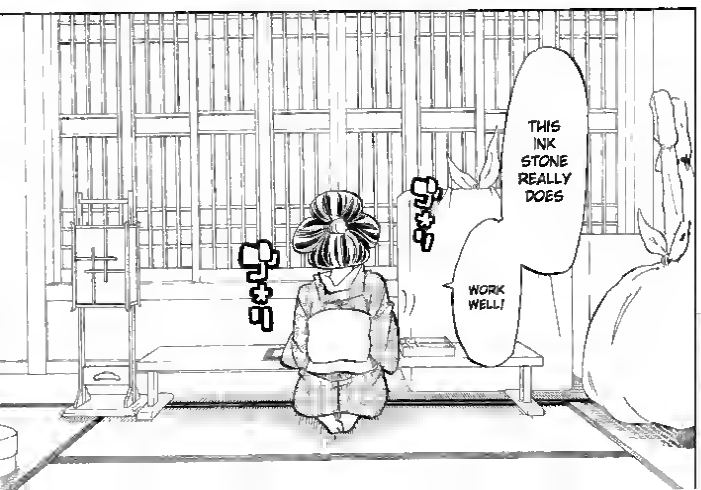
YEAH!
IT'LL BE SO MUCH FUN, RIGHT DAD!!
LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT, KIKU.
WE'RE GOING TO THE CASTLE TO WATCH THE MATCH TOMORROW.

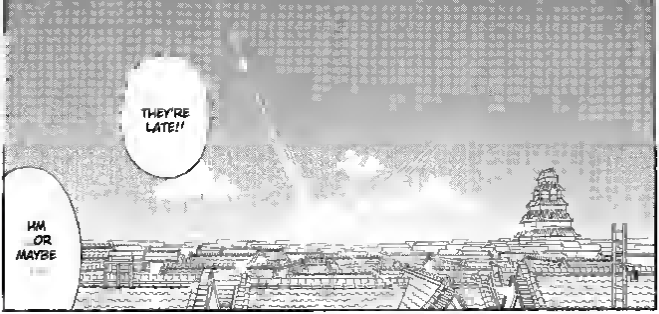
HE SURE HAS!
MISTER UDAGAWA HAS BECOME A FINE MAN.
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA OF WHO I WANT TO WIN, THOUGH
WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?

I KNOW ...
YES,
KI-YOKI-SAMA ...
WOULDN'T IT BE BEST FOR YOU TO RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT...?
KOBUKAN

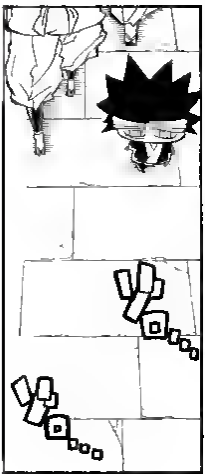

WANIBUCHI...
JUST WATCH


FU FU ...


THIS INK STONE REALLY DOES
WORK WELL!


THEY'RE LATE!!
HM ...OR MAYBE

OH!
HERE THEY COME!



COULD IT BE WE'VE ARRIVED TOO EARLY?
HMM, THAT MIGHT BE IT!

LET'S GET GOING!
SORRY WE'RE LATE, GOSSAN.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR TONIGHT'S SIDE DISH?
Grab
OH!
GOC-CHIN!!
YEAH!

SO..
TAKE CARE!!
OK!
IT'LL BE RADISH, THEN!!
RAD-ISH?
.....

I'LL HAVE IT READY FOR WHEN YOU RETURN!!!
I'M OFF!
OKAY.

EH HE HE!

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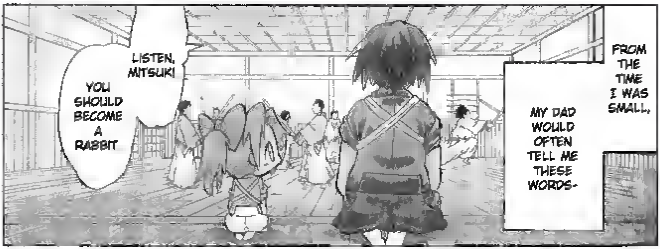
SPECIAL CHAPTER: THE MOON IS SHINING



TAE MITSUKI'S NAME IS GIVEN IN KATAKANA, BUT IT'S USUALLY WRITTEN TO MEAN 'FULL MOON' OR 'BEAUTIFUL MOON'

LOOK TOWARDS THE MOON AND LEAP.
IF YOU DO THIS, EVERY DAY WILL BECOME ENJOY-ABLE.
THIS IS SOMETHING I LEARNED WHEN YOUR MOM AND I FIRST MET.

I DIDN'T GET WHAT HE MEANT AT ALL.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WOULD UNDERSTAND WHEN I GREW UP...
ASK YOUR MOM.
'KAY
.....
UH ...
REALLY ...?
THEN WHAT DO I DO WHEN IT'S CLOUDY AND THE MOON CAN'T BE SEEN?

SPECIAL CHAPTER: THE MOON IS SHINING

I've grown big as well!
UWA AAAA AA!!!

EDO HAS CHANGED ...OR SO I'VE HEARD.
THE SOCIAL RANKS THAT ONCE EXISTED HAVE DISAPPEARED.
AND WITH THEM WENT CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS, MARRIAGE OPPORTUNITIES AND CLASS RESTRICTED DRESS CODES.

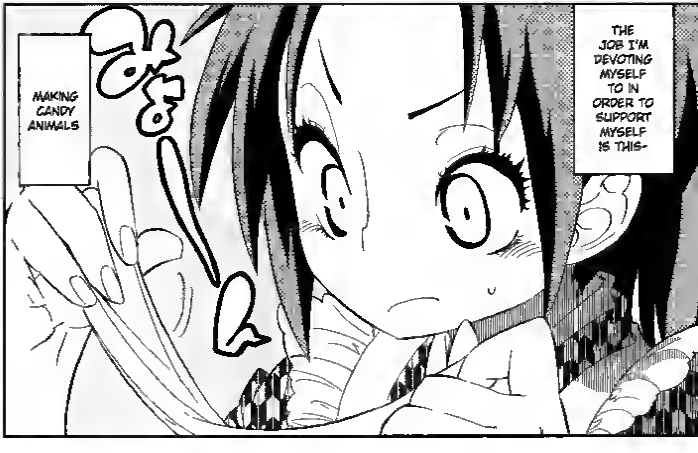
TN: THE CHARACTERS ALL SAY 'EDO' IN THIS CHAPTER, BUT JUDGING FROM THE POWER LINES AND STATE OF AFFAIRS, JAPAN WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL INTO THE MEIJI ERA AT THIS TIME, WHEN THE NAME OF EDO WAS CHANGED TO TOKYO. MAYBE THE PEOPLE HAVEN'T ADJUSTED TO THE CHANGE YET. OR MAYBE IT'S A SMALL PRINTING ERROR- WHO KNOWS?

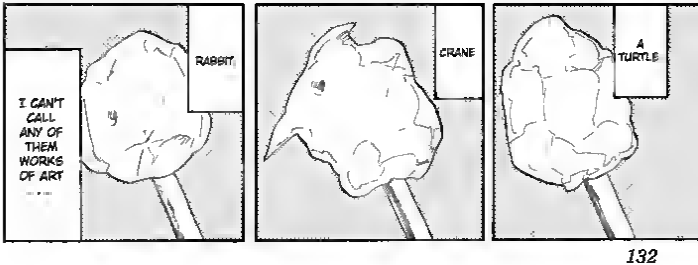
APPARENTLY THE "USAGI DOJO" THAT BELONGED TO MY FATHER
DEFEATED THE "KOBUKAN" A DOJO WHICH WAS EMPLOYED BY THE BAKUFU ITSELF
FOR THE SAKE OF SHAKING UP THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE UNCLE MASAYUKI TOLD ME THIS STORY WITH GREAT PRIDE

THAT FATHER, AND THE MOTHER WHO RAISED ME-
FWA AA...
AS MY PARENTS, I HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR BOTH OF THEM.
BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF THEY'RE ALL THAT GREAT OTHER-WISE

HAVING REACHED AN AGE WHERE I DIDN'T WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS MY PARENTS,
THERE WE GO...
I LEFT HOME AND HAVE BEEN ON MY OWN FOR ALMOST A MONTH NOW.

THE BANNERS READ "THE RABBIT'S CANDY SHOP."

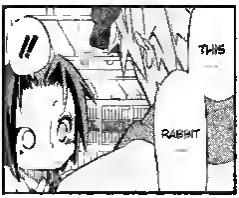


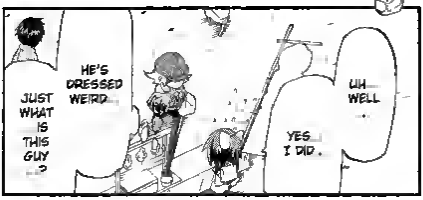


MAKING MY OWN LIVING IS HARDER THAN I IMAGINED IT WOULD BE
HAA...
EVEN SO,
.....
EW, GROSS !!!!
HUH? THAT GIRL LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOT SNOT COMING OUT OF HER NOSE!
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, I'M NOT IMPROVING AT ALL

飴屋

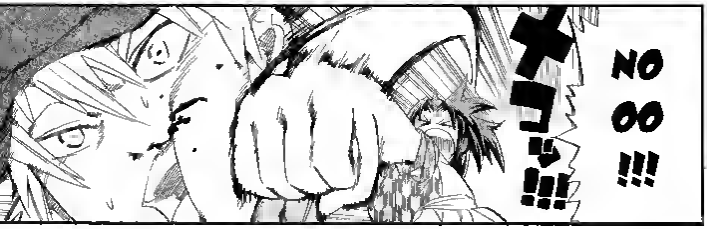
YES?
I DON'T PLAN ON QUITTING THIS JOB JUST YET.
HEY
HEY YOU!

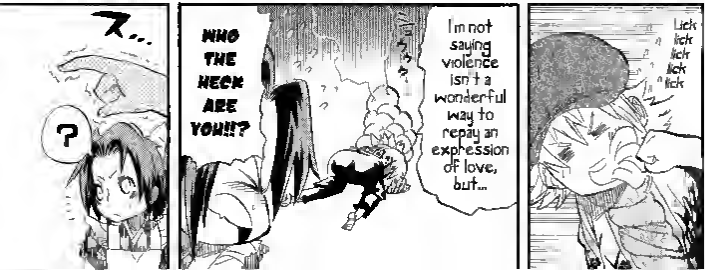




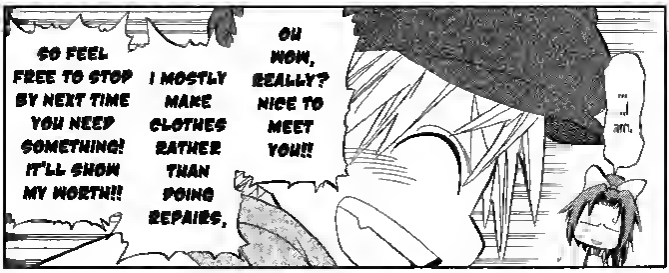
TN: A MON WAS IS SMALLEST FORM OF PAYMENT SIMILAR TO SINGLE YEN COINS OR PENNIES IN THE WEST

TAI KAI PROVINCE, AN AREA OF OLD JAPAN WHICH IS NOW KNOWN AS THE YAMANASHI PREFECTURE. IT BORDERED ON THE CITY OF EDO, AS WELL AS THE SHINANO DOMAIN THAT MARO'S FAMILY RULED OVER.




ス...
?
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU!!?
I'm not saying violence isn't a wonderful way to repay an expression of love, but...
Lick lick lick lick lick

I JUST MOVED IN RIGHT HERE FROM TODAY ONWARDS, I'LL BE MAKING MY LIVING AT THE TAILOR SHOP OF BYAKKOYA MASATSUNE
OH- BYAKKOYA IS THE TRADE NAME I THOUGHT UP FOR MYSELF!!
Pretty cool, right!?
COULD IT BE YOU'RE ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS?


OH WOW, REALLY? NICE TO MEET YOU!!
I MOSTLY MAKE CLOTHES RATHER THAN DOING REPAIRS.
SO FEEL FREE TO STOP BY NEXT TIME YOU NEED SOMETHING! IT'LL SHOW MY WORTH!!
...I am.

IS THAT SO .
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY CONFIDENT ABOUT IT
I MOVED HERE FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE BEST TAILOR SHOP IN ALL OF EDO!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
SHOW YOUR WORTH?

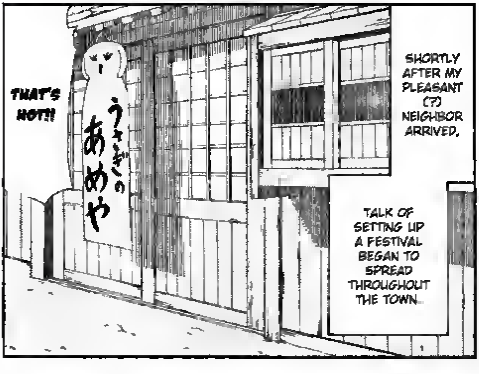
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M PICKING A FIGHT!!
AWE-
SO-
ME
!!
It's a decision !!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! I'D FAIL FOR SURE IN YOUR SHOES!!
HAVING TO COMPLETE WITH ANOTHER CANDY SHOP THAT'S RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM YOU AND KEEP ON GOING, IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE-

AND HAVE THAT SHOPKEEPER SURRENDER AFTER HE'S BEEN TOTALLY HUMILIATED!
I'LL WORK HARD TO MAKE GOOD CANDY...

...I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS LIKE THAT.
I'M GOING TO STOP ONCE I'VE BEATEN HIM.
What's with these interrogation questions...
Hm?
Hm?
AND? MAKING CANDY ANIMALS?
MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH BEING THE BEST?
WHAT'S YOUR FUTURE GOAL?
AND? THEN?
HMM ...

I'LL JUST THINK ABOUT IT WHEN THE TIME COMES!!
. WHO KNOWS?
ER
SO YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT AFTER THAT?
I SEE
And here is your gift! I found a kind-hearted spirit!

BANNER: THE RABBIT'S CANDY SHOP


THAT'S NOT!!
うさぎのあめや
SHORTLY AFTER MY PLEASANT (?) NEIGHBOR ARRIVED,
TALK OF SETTING UP A FESTIVAL BEGAN TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE TOWN.

I BURNT MYSELF
BUT IF I WAIT FOR IT TO COOL DOWN IT BECOMES HARD...
MAKING IT TOO DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH...
MANY PEOPLE ARE SURE TO GATHER.
SO IT'S THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO BEAT THAT MAN.
TOTOTOTO
IS ANYONE HOME?
IT'S ME, MASATSUNE
GEN !!!
I'LL JUST SEND HIM AWAY IF HE ASKS FOR SOMETHING STRANGE...
WH... WHAT DO YOU WANT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
DO YOU HAVE A PAIR OF SCISSORS FOR CUTTING CLOTH?
THE ONES I BROUGHT FROM HOME AREN'T WORKING AT ALL...
AND THERE AREN'T ANY STORES OPEN AT THIS HOUR...
IF YOU HAVE SOME THEN I'D LIKE TO BORROW THEM.
PLEASE.
.....
HE SEEMS DIFFERENT COMPARED TO THIS AFTERNOON...
BUT THE ONLY PAIR OF SCISSORS I HAVE IS FOR CUTTING CANDY...
OH, I KNOW!
JUST WAIT A MINUTE!!
?

I got carried away and licked your hand...
I'm so... sorry...
ちょこん
I WAS JUST GOING TO CUT THE CLOTH FOR YOU!!
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OKAY!
NOW JUST STAND REAL STILL!!
OH... IN THAT CASE, PLEASE CUT IT AROUND HERE
ACTUALLY CAN YOU EVEN USE THAT THING?
LEAVE IT TO ME!!
.....
MMM!!!

SWIP

I'VE ATTENDED MY DAD'S DOJO SINCE I WAS SMALL, YOU SEE
BUT AS THE ONLY GIRL I LOST INTEREST AND STOPPED GOING
WHOA AAAH !!!!
AMA-ZING!! YOU'VE SAVED ME!!!

OH

YEP!
HE'S A FORMER BUSH!!!
OH? SO YOUR DAD IS...

If she can't take the katana then I go with her
Every day without fail!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT- THIS IS JUST A HAND-ME-DOWN FROM MY DAD.
BUT I THOUGHT THE POLICE WERE THE ONLY ONES ALLOWED TO CARRY THOSE?
HE'S ALWAYS BUGGING ME ABOUT SELF-PROTECTION!!
DID YOU BUY SOME-THING SO DANGEROUS YOURSELF?

REALLY!? WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!!
MY FAMILY USED TO BE FROM THE SAMURAI CLASS TOO!!

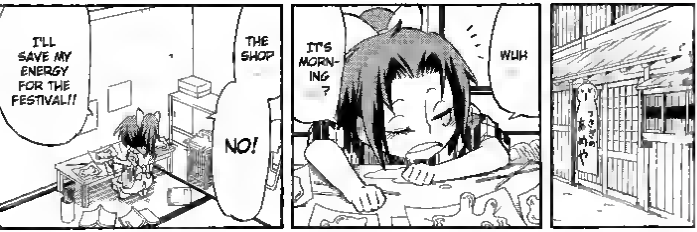
NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO PREPARE A FANTASTIC KIMONO IN TIME FOR THE FESTIVAL!!
AT THAT TIME, YOU SHOULD-
AH!

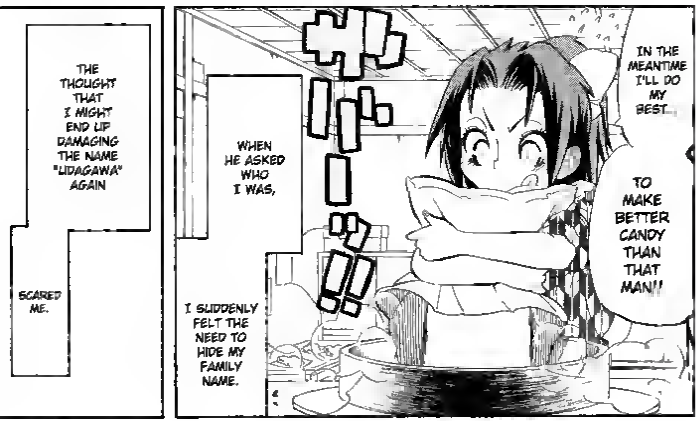
OH... I SEE..
THANKS! YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP!!
WELL... I STILL HAVE A LOT OF PRACTICE CANDIES TO MAKE, SO...

HOW SILLY OF ME!!
ALL THIS TALKING AND I FORGET TO ASK A GIRL FOR HER NAME!!!
WITH THAT SAID, PLEASE TELL ME ♡
OH NO!

.....

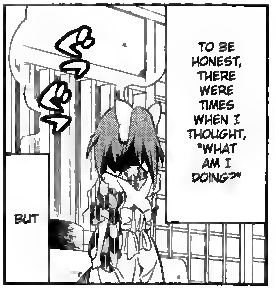
OH? THAT'S A CUTE NAME ♡
SEE YOU LATER THEN!
商計時
IT'S MITSUKI.

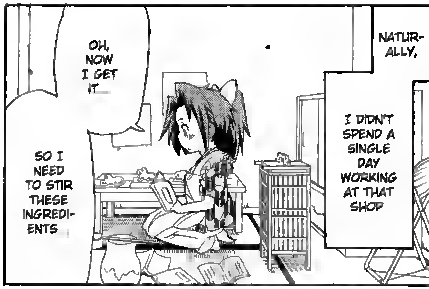

I'LL SAVE MY ENERGY FOR THE FESTIVAL!!
THE SHOP
NO!
IT'S MORNING?
WUH

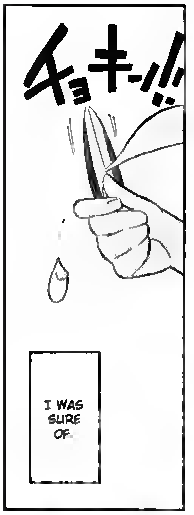

THE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT END UP DAMAGING THE NAME "UDAGAWA" AGAIN
SCARED ME.
WHEN HE ASKED WHO I WAS,
I SUDDENLY FELT THE NEED TO HIDE MY FAMILY NAME.
IN THE MEANTIME I'LL DO MY BEST
TO MAKE BETTER CANDY THAN THAT MAN!!

ON THE FIRST DAY I STARTED LIVING ON MY OWN,
I WENT TO THAT
BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSE BY AND I NEEDED A JOB TO SUPPORT MYSELF
I'D LIKE TO WORK HERE, PLEASE!
...HN? OH... SURE, WHY NOT.
IT'S A TROUBLE-SOME JOB, SO I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
YOUR NAME?
LIDA-GAWA MITSU-KI!!
HEY LITTLE GIRL, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THAT LIDAGI DOJO'S...
...LIDA-GAWA?
YES! I'M THE DAUGHTER OF LIDAGAWA GOSUKE!!
SO YOU'RE A PART OF THAT LIDAGAWA FAMILY... HUH...
HO ...
GIVE ME A BREAK, WILL YOU?
?

MY FAMILY USED TO BE A BUSHI HOUSE-HOLD.
THEY WORE KATANA AT THEIR WAISTS TO SHOW THEIR SUPERIORITY
AND THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF WORK OR WIVES.
I HEAR THAT THE SAMURAI GOT TO LIVE IN A COMFY WORLD LIKE THAT.
I HAPPEN TO BE GOOD WITH MY HANDS SO MAKING MONEY ISN'T A PROBLEM.
BUT WHY DO I HAVE TO DO A TROUBLESOME JOB LIKE THIS?
YOUR OLD MAN REALLY...
WENT AND DID SOMETHING TOTALLY UNNECE-SSARY.
WELL, WHATEVER.
YOU CAN START BY BOILING THESE INGREDIENTS


TO BE HONEST, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT, "WHAT AM I DOING?"
BUT


OH, NOW I GET IT...
SO I NEED TO STIR THESE INGREDI-ENTS
NATUR-ALLY,
I DIDN'T SPEND A SINGLE DAY WORKING AT THAT SHOP


イョキ-!!
I WAS SURE OF...

THAT'S THE ONLY THING
I COULDN'T JUST STAND BY AND DO NOTHING AFTER HEARING HIM SPEAK ILL OF MY PARENTS

MAYBE I'LL GO FEEL THE NIGHT AIR...
MAN, I'M SO TIRED...

THE LIGHTS ARE STILL ON NEXT DOOR...
I GUESS HE'S HAVING A TOUGH TIME TOO...
I WONDER IF HE'S EATEN SUPPER...
.....

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ピーヒャラ
祭
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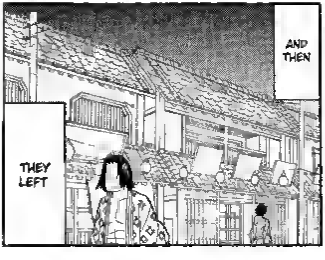
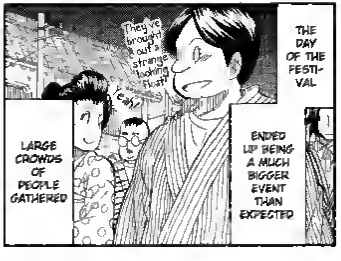
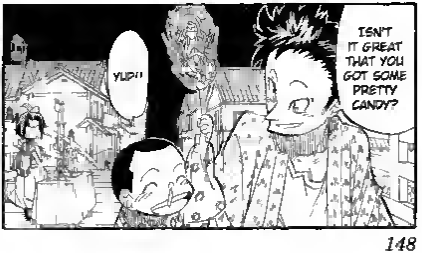

AND THEN
THEY LEFT


THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL
They've brought out a strange looking float!
Ooh!
ENDED UP BEING A MUCH BIGGER EVENT THAN EXPECTED
LARGE CROWDS OF PEOPLE GATHERED

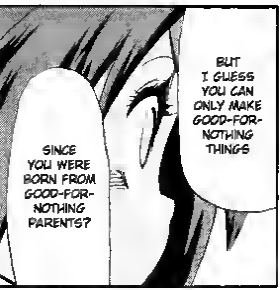
I DIDN'T SELL A SINGLE ONE
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE SO WELL-MADE


ISN'T IT GREAT THAT YOU GOT SOME PRETTY CANDY?
YUP!!

S... SHEE!! THEY'RE FOUR MON EACH!!
WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE!!?

I GUESS I'LL BUY ONE.
!

...IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
I JUST FIGURED I SHOULD COMPARE THEM TO THE ONES FROM MY STORE, THAT'S ALL.


BUT I GUESS YOU CAN ONLY MAKE GOOD-FOR-NOTHING THINGS
SINCE YOU WERE BORN FROM GOOD-FOR-NOTHING PARENTS?

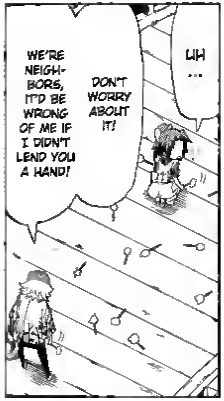
HM MM...
SEEMS LIKE YOU PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO MAKING THESE

HM? WHAT'S WITH YOUR HANDS?
DID YOU BURN YOURSELF?
I... I DID...

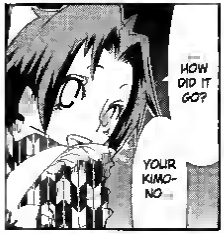
バアッ!!!
TOO BAD FOR YOU !!!
I'M ALL SOLD OUT !!!!

ARE YOU SOME KIND OF IDIOT?
CHARGING FOUR MON FOR THOSE THINGS IS NO BETTER THAN ROBBERY.
スタスタ
スタスタ
... GOOD GRIEF.

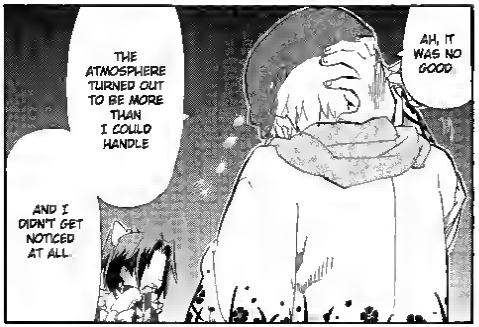
IT'S FRUST-RATING
TO HEAR SOME-ONE TALK ABOUT MY PARENTS LIKE THAT...
I'M FRUSTRATED WITH MYSELF FOR NOT BEING ABLE
TO DO ANYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO ME!
NO
.....
THAT'S NOT IT
WHAT'S FRUST-RATING IS
PEOPLE ARE BAD-MOUTH-ING MY PARENTS AND YET
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO SAY
OR WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.


UH ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WE'RE NEIGHBORS, IT'D BE WRONG OF ME IF I DIDN'T LEND YOU A HAND!

ヒョイ!!
UWAA! THIS IS TERRIBLE!!
WHAT HAPPENED? WERE YOU BEING HARASSED?

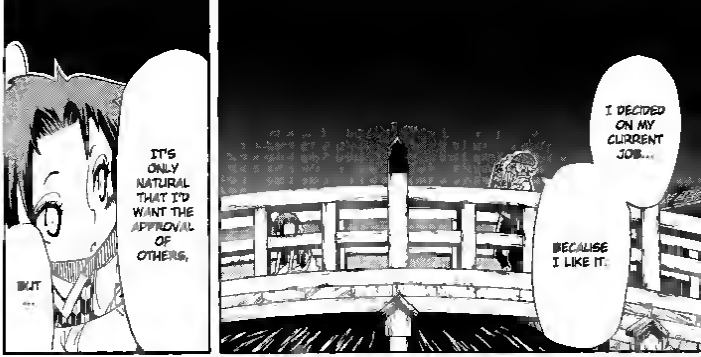

HOW DID IT GO?
YOUR KIMO-NO

.....


AH, IT WAS NO GOOD.
THE ATMOSPHERE TURNED OUT TO BE MORE THAN I COULD HANDLE
AND I DIDN'T GET NOTICED AT ALL.

I'M SORRY.

HUH?
...MY FAMILY NAME...
IS UDAGAWA...
AND MY FATHER...
IS UDAGAWA GOSUKE... OF THE USAGI DOJO...
IF THIS WAS THE OLD EDO, THEN...
I'M SURE YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN... A GREAT AND HONOUR-ABLE SAMURAI...
AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO PUT UP WITH SUCH AWFUL THINGS...
.....
HEY, MITSUKI-CHAN...
ARE YOU REALLY... UDAGAWA GOSUKE'S DAUGH-TER?
?
I WOULDN'T LIE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHY ARE YOU EVEN ASKING?
WELL... HEARING YOU SAY THAT JUST MAKES ME KIND OF SAD...
'CUZ YOU SEE...

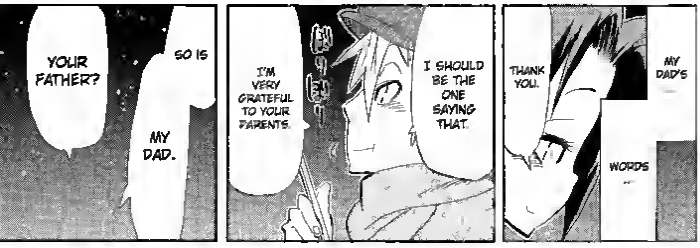

I DECIDED ON MY CURRENT JOB...
BECAUSE I LIKE IT.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I'D WANT THE APPROVAL OF OTHERS,
BUT...

EVEN WITHOUT THAT, THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF TIMES WHEN I THINK, "THIS IS STITCHED BEAUTIFULLY!" OR
"I'VE THOUGHT OF A GREAT PATTERN" OR, "I'M AMAZING!!"

YOU ALSO HAVE MOMENTS LIKE THAT WHILE MAKING CANDY,
DON'T YOU MITSUKI-CHAN?
...THE ONLY REASON I STARTED WAS BECAUSE THAT CANDY SALESMAN SAID BAD THINGS ABOUT MY PARENTS...
I DON'T REALLY...
THE TIME YOU SPEND WORKING...
THEN JUST QUIT!

IS LONGER THAN ANYTHING YOU'LL DO IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE
SECOND ONLY TO THE TIME SPENT WHILE YOU'RE ASLEEP, RIGHT?
SO YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING ENJOYABLE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!!!
Wa-!!

I HADN'T THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY
I FELT LIKE... I FINALLY UNDER-STOOD
ISN'T IT THANKS TO THE USAGI DOJO...
THAT WE GET TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE WE CAN MAKE THAT CHOICE?
.....


SO IS MY DAD.
YOUR FATHER?
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOUR PARENTS.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE SAYING THAT.
THANK YOU.
MY DAD'S ... WORDS ...

YEAH!
HE'S KNOWN AS KIYOKI SEIZAEMON.
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED AND WE ENDED UP MOVING TO THE COUNTRY-SIDE, BUT...
EVERY DAY WAS FUN.
IF HE HAD WON IN THAT FIGHT AGAINST THE USAGI DOJO, THINGS PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT LIKE THAT.
IT'S LIKELY THAT I ALSO WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BORN.

EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID, MY DAD...
WOULD TELL ME THESE THINGS AS THOUGH IT WERE SOME KIND OF FAIRY-TALE.
SO BE PROUD, MITSUKI-CHAN!!
YOU HAVE WONDERFUL PARENTS!!
I'M THE ONE SAYING THAT, SO IT HAS TO BE TRUE!!
YEAH!
ISN'T IT HARD FOR THE RABBITS WHEN THEY CAN'T SEE WHERE IT IS!?
THAT'S TRUE.
WHEN CLOUDS ARE COVER-ING IT?
.....

BUT IF THE RABBITS LEAP WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT,
THE MOON WILL SHINE ON THEM FOR SURE!
WITH ALL THEIR STRENGTH AND HARD WORK
THEY CAN BEAT THE CLOUDS!!
IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT,
OR MAYBE EVEN LESS THAN A LITTLE BIT..

THE LIGHT OF THE MOON HAD REACHED ME AS WELL
BUT I FELT AS THOUGH
I THOUGHT I'D TRY OPEN-ING A DOJO OR SOME-THING
AH HA HA ...
This is against the law!!!
OK!!
I'LL DO MY BEST TODAY AS WELL!!
!
!!!

IS THAT SO!
WHAT ABOUT THAT CANDY SHOP?
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT GUY!!
BUT IF IT'S STILL A MATTER OF WHO WINS OR LOSES...
IF WE GO BY HOW MANY DAYS IN OUR LIFE ONE WEARS A SMILE, THEN...
MAYBE I'LL BE THE WINNER?
THIS IS GREAT!
YOU'RE ALREADY AHEAD BY ONE POINT!
.....
AH HAHA!
THANK YOU!!
I REALLY AM GRATEFUL TO THE USAGI DOJO
IN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN NOW,
?

8 SAMURAI USAGI (END)

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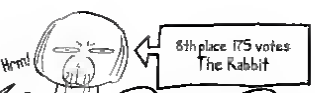
Omakemanga



THE RESULTS OF THE CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL ARE IN!!!

※Only characters with 2 or more votes will be shown

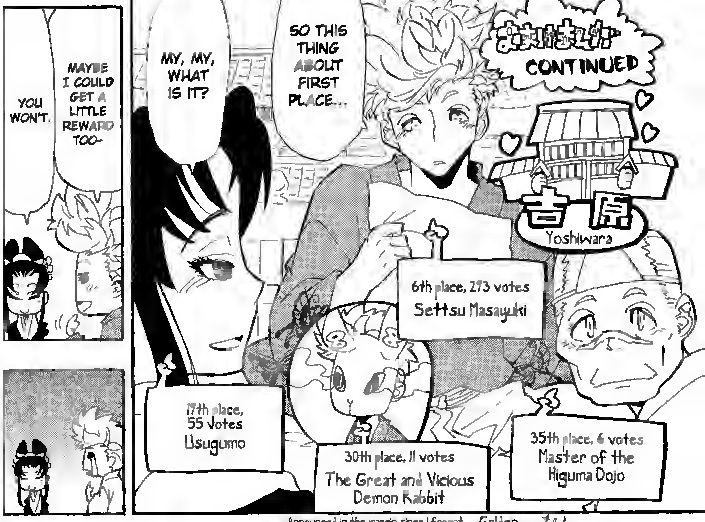
SIGNED "SUPREME COMMANDER WANIBUCHI TESSA"...?
"AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN LISTED IN THIS POPULARITY POLL, I SHALL GRANT THE FIRST PLACE WINNER ANY REWARD OF THEIR CHOOSING."
HMM... WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE..?
33rd place, 7 votes
Karashima Geki
I can't see!!
42nd place, 3 votes
Fastest Rice Broker Whose Skin Looks Like Wood
42nd place, 3 votes
Leader of the Enlightened Construction Workers
10th place 4 votes
Old Man
We're at the public notice boards!!
51st place, 2 votes
Exposition Rabbit

① Announced in the margin since I forgot to draw them in...23rd place, 24 votes Matsuyama Kirinoshin

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT NUMBER OF VOTES THERE ARE AS LONG AS I HAVE YOURS, SAYUKIN ♡
I CAN'T BELIEVE SAPA-KUN ISN'T IN FIEST PLACE!!
NO WAY!!
I'M NOT SURE WHEN AND WHERE DID IT OCCUR, I WONDER?
WHAT'S A POPULARITY POLL?
42nd place, 3 votes
Yamaneko
51st place, 2 votes
Shiraishi Kusuo
32nd place, 8 votes
Sayuki
37th place, 5 votes
Gonda Tesshin
10th place 4 votes
Abe Sadanojou
21st place 30 votes
Kai Kurouji rou
42nd place, 3 votes
Asano-dono the Referee
THE RESULTS HAVE ALREADY APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER.
27th place 13 votes
Isono Kenpei
51st place, 2 votes
Ganba Ryuushei

CONTINUED
THE KOBUKAN
SO THESE ARE THE FINAL RESULTS.
I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, I'M A BIT FRUSTRATED THAT I LOST TO YOU! HA HAHA!!
20th place 37 votes Wanibuchi Tessa
WHAT PURPOSE DOES THIS SERVE?
...SUCH FOOLISHNESS
13th place, 84 votes Kiyoki Seizaemon
BUT IT SAYS HERE THAT YOU INTEND TO GIVE A REWARD...
OH? EVEN IF YOU ASK ME, I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT
Now that you mention it...
.....
OH WELL, WHO CARES!
JUST THINK OF IT AS A DIVINE MESSAGE FROM THE HEAVENS!!
WHAT IS HE SAYING, THAT WANIBUCHI
37th place 3 votes Sugiya
27th place 16 votes Inui
Kashiro's House
ONCE I START WORKING, YOU WON'T EVEN NEED TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DAD!
12th place, 107 votes Hanaya Kashirou
HOW DISAPPOINTING...IF ONE OF US HAS GOTTEN FIRST PLACE, THEN...
WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH MONEY WE COULD HAVE OBTAINED?
15th place, 76 votes Kiku

17th place, 60 votes Ootori
35th place, 6 votes Asuka
I'm glad to see that everyone is doing well!
HEY GUYS, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?
CONTINUED
Secondary Harumichi Kashidate
37th place, 5 votes Uzura
WE DID.
AMONG THE FIVE OF US, SUZUME-CHAN AND TSURUYA GOT THE TOP SCORES!
IS THIS SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT?
7th place, 165 votes Tsuruya
23rd place, 24 votes Mozuku
I'M QUITE HAPPY ABOUT IT!
TO THINK WE WOULD EARN SO MANY VOTES!!
BUT
11th place 125 votes Suzume
EVEN IF WE ADD ALL OUR VOTES UP INTO ONE SCORE...
WE STILL WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WIN FIRST PLACE...
I WONDER WHY THIS GUY FEELS THE NEED TO SAY SUCH POINTLESS THINGS?
MAYBE I SHOULD PUT HIM TO SLEEP FOR A LITTLE WHILE.



② Announced in the manga since I forgot to draw them in. 25th place, 5 votes Golden Nana herb

CONTINUED
HONAMI RESIDENCE
OH, WELL... HAHA...
RIGHT! HE'S MY SON, AFTER ALL. VERY ADMIREABLE!!
...THE DIFFERENCE IN VOTES IS PRETTY BIG...
51st place, 2 votes Hikozaemon
51st place, 2 votes Hikozaemon's Chopsticks
25th place, 14 votes Honami's Friend from the Kobukan
FOETH PLACE !!?
THAT'S SO AWE-SOME, HONAMI!!!
4th place, 131 votes Honami Tasuke
7th place, 201 votes Kazama Hanzou
Announced in the margin since I forgot to draw them in. 51st place, 2 votes
Honma Family Dog
HONMA MANSION
THIS IS QUITE A SUITABLE RANK! DON'T YOU THINK SO, ELDER BROTHER?
HM?
WHAT'S WRONG, ELDER BROTHER?
3rd place, 135 votes Maro (Honma Rozan)
10th place, 140 votes Honma Ryousei
25th place, 18 votes Ushachihoko
IS SOME-ONE THERE?
12 place 3 Votes Oriu
14th place, 82 votes Maromi

51st place, 2 votes Rabbit Kid
HUH?
FIRST PLACE GOES
TO SHINO-DONO.
OH!!
Alright!!
1ST PLACE, 648 VOTES SHINO
2nd place, 628 votes Udagawa Gosuke
CONTINUED
UDAGAWA HOUSEHOLD
AND SO,
33rd place, 7 votes The Subordinate of Hanibuchi Who Has a Mole Between His Eyebrows
NNA !!? IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT REALLY OK!!?
WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON MISO!!
AH!
Right... first place...
HM
NOW THEN WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR A REWARD?
12nd place, 3 votes Gosuke's Big Brother
12nd place, 3 votes Gosuke's Father
どーん!!
THANKS FOR ALL OF THE APPLICATIONS!
They dropped a whole bunch!!
Y... yeah ...
21st place, 30 votes Fukushima Teppei
12nd place, 3 votes Gonta
12nd place, 3 votes Senji
So a few days later ...
15th place, 56 votes Kiyohito

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WHAT BECAME OF THE RABBITS AFTERWARDS ①

SETTSU MASAYUKI AND OKIYO (USUGUMO)

AFTER THIS AND THAT, THESE TWO GOT MARRIED AND NOW LIVE TOGETHER AT A BAR THEY OPENED IN TOWN. SETTSU DOES THE COOKING AND OKIYO SERVES CUSTOMERS. THEY WOULD BE HAPPY EVEN IF BUSINESS WASN'T THRIVING, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THEY GET A LARGE AMOUNT OF CUSTOMERS EVERY DAY.

THOSE OF THE USAGI DOJO ARE NO LONGER DISCIPLES THERE AND HAVE ALL GONE THEIR OWN WAYS IN LIFE, BUT MAKE SURE TO MEET UP NOW AND THEN. AT THESE TIMES, SETTSU WILL ACT LIKE THE PLACE IS HIS OWN ESTABLISHMENT AND DO ALL THE COOKING.

MAYBE IT'S PUNISHMENT FOR ALL THE TIMES WE TEASED GOSUKE ABOUT GOING BALD, BUT SETTSU GETS THE FEELING THAT HIS HAIR HASN'T BEEN GROWING VERY MUCH AROUND THE EDGES LATELY. IT SEEMS THAT HE'S PRETTY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

WHAT BECAME OF THE RABBITS AFTERWARDS ②

CHIYOKICHI AND KAYO

ALTHOUGH THEY WERE SAD TO LEAVE NANANA VILLAGE, CHIYOKICHI AND KAYO DECIDED TO MOVE INTO TOWN TO OPEN UP A SAKE SHOP TOGETHER.

THE PRODUCT THEY'RE SELLING IS, OF COURSE, NANANA SAKE! THE DEMAND FOR IT COULD BE HIGHER, BUT THE COST OF MATERIALS IS REMARKABLY CHEAPER THAN IF THEY WERE TO USE RICE SO THEY'RE MAKING QUITE A PROFIT.

NEARLY ALL OF THE MONEY THEY SAVE IS SPENT ON FURTHERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NANANA VILLAGE

INCIDENTALLY, THEIR SAKE IS ALSO PURCHASED IN BULK BY SETTSU'S ESTABLISHMENT.

WHAT BECAME OF THE RABBITS AFTERWARDS ③

KAZAMA HANZOU

HE ISN'T A CRIMINAL

USING HIS OWN BODY AS A WEAPON, HE WORKS AS A BODYGUARD AT VARIOUS PLACES TO EARN A LIVING.

RATHER THAN THE PAY, HE CHOOSES CLIENTS BASED ON WHETHER HE'LL BE ABLE TO "FIGHT A STRONG OPPONENT" OR NOT. WITH THAT SAID, HE'LL BEAT SAID CLIENTS TO A PULP IF THEY END UP BEING NASTY PEOPLE- THIS HAS BECOME QUITE A PROBLEM FOR HIM. REGARDLESS OF HIS STRENGTH, THE TOWNSPEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO LIKE HIRING HIM AS A BODYGUARD

WHAT BECAME OF THE RABBITS AFTERWARDS ④

HONMA ROZAN AND HONMA RYOUSEI

WHEN THE SOCIAL RANKING OF FEUDAL LORDS WAS LOST, THE HONMA FAMILY WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING OFF OF LAND TAXES. IN ORDER TO KEEP MANY OF THEIR LOWER RANKING RETAINERS FROM BEING LET GO, MARO- IN OTHER WORDS, HONMA ROZAN- SET FORTH IN DEVELOPING THE "SHACHIHOKO CONGLOMERATE." HE CAME TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE DIVERSE MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES, TRADE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND REAL ESTATE. THANKS TO THIS, ALL OF THE LOWER RANKING RETAINERS WERE ABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING HAPPILY AS EMPLOYEES.

ALTHOUGH HE TRIES TO SPEAK MUCH MORE NOW THAN IN THE PAST, HE STILL NEEDS TO HAVE HIS BROTHER BY HIS SIDE WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH HIS EMPLOYEES TO ENSURE EVERYTHING GOES WELL.

HONAMI TASUKE

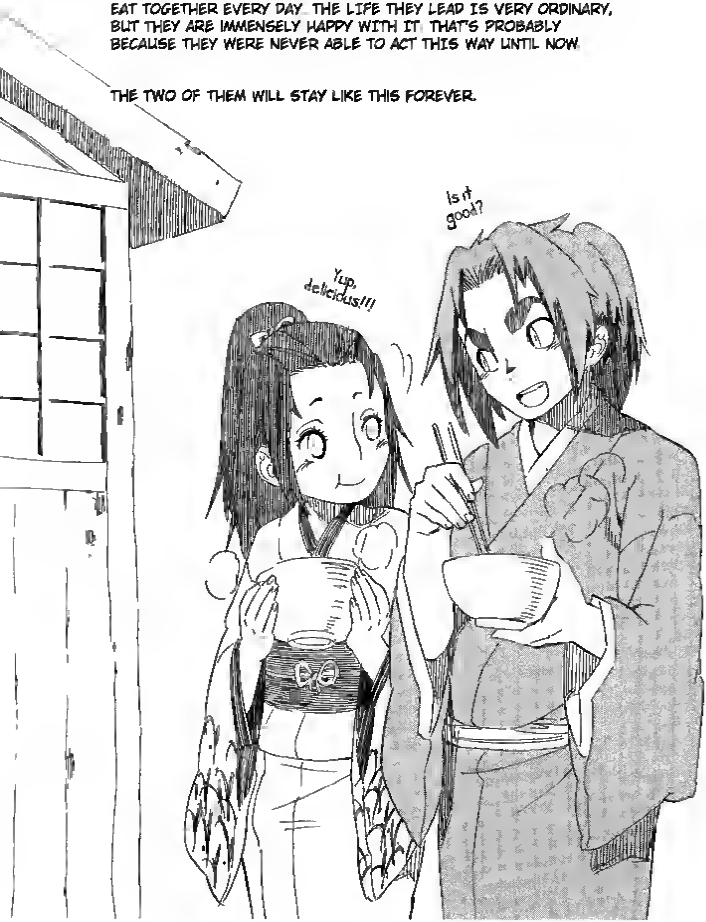
BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE AN OCCUPATION FREELY THANKS TO THE CHANGING TIMES, HE DECIDED TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER AND GOES TO WORK AT A STATION CLOSE TO HIS PARENTS' HOME DAY AFTER DAY.

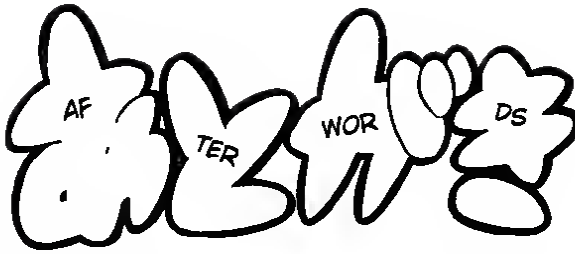
HE HASN'T TAKEN OVER HIS FATHER'S PERFORMANCE, BUT HAS BECOME A BELOVED MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IN HIS OWN WAY. HIS TRAINING IN IAI DOESN'T HAVE MUCH USE SINCE THE VILLAGE IS SO PEACEFUL, BUT HONAMI INWARDLY HOPES THAT A DAY WHEN HE HAS TO USE THOSE SKILLS NEVER COMES

WHAT BECAME OF THE RABBITS AFTERWARDS ⑥ UDAGAWA GOSUKE AND SHINO

GOSUKE IS STILL SWINGING HIS SWORD AS THE MASTER OF THE USAGI DOJO. SHINO IS STILL MAKING MASKS AND TAKING CARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD. AFTER MITSUKI STARTED LIVING ON HER OWN, THEY RETURNED TO LIVING PRIVATELY AS A MARRIED COUPLE AND EAT TOGETHER EVERY DAY. THE LIFE THEY LEAD IS VERY ORDINARY, BUT THEY ARE IMMENSELY HAPPY WITH IT. THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY WERE NEVER ABLE TO ACT THIS WAY UNTIL NOW.

THE TWO OF THEM WILL STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.





HELLO EVERYONE. THIS IS THE AUTHOR, FUKUSHIMA TEPPEI. AFTER ONE SHORT YEAR, SAMURAI USAGI HAS FINALLY COME TO AN END.

SINCE THIS IS THE END, I WANTED TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW HAPPY THIS MANGA HAS MADE ME.

I WENT TO MANY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS SERIALIZATION, AND EVEN AFTER BEING REJECTED COUNTLESS TIMES, I CONTINUED. AT FIRST I WAS ARGUMENTATIVE AND STUBBORN ABOUT IT, SAYING THINGS LIKE "MAYBE I'M NOT SUITED TO SHONEN MANGA" AND BECAME VERY DEPRESSED.

I HAD NO MONEY, SO ALL I COULD DO WAS STAY HOME AND PLAY GAMES OR READ. BUT EVEN AS I WAS PLAYING GAMES, I STILL HAD THE VAGUE FEELING THAT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DRAW AN INTERESTING MANGA, SO I STARTED FLIPPING THROUGH MANY EDO DOCUMENTS I HAD PURCHASED A LONG TIME AGO AS REFERENCE MATERIAL WHEN DRAWING.

WHILE READING, I CAME TO LEARN THAT "DURING THE EDO PERIOD, A BUSHI WAS NOT ABLE TO CHOOSE A MARRIAGE PARTNER FREELY." I KNEW I HAD NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THE LOW-RANKING BUSHI WHO WERE OPPRESSED BY THEIR STRICT SOCIETY, BUT I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF FROM THINKING ALL KINDS OF THINGS LIKE, "WHAT IF YOU GOT PAIRED WITH SOMEONE AWFUL?" AND "WHETHER YOU WERE UGLY OR CUTE, THE CHANCES OF GETTING MARRIED WERE..."

WHEN I WAS WRITING A STORY ABOUT ARCHERY I THOUGHT, "NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT SEEMS LIKE I REALLY ENJOY LOVE STORIES." STUNNED BY THIS REALIZATION, I DECIDED IN THAT MOMENT THAT A MANGA DRAWN WITH SUCH THEMES MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE INTERESTING.

SINCE I HAD BEEN VERY STUBBORN UP UNTIL THIS POINT, WORRYING THOUGHTS LIKE "WOULD IT BE OKAY TO MAKE THE PROTAGONISTS OF A SHONEN MANGA A MARRIED COUPLE?" STARTED TO FILL MY MIND UNTIL I REMEMBERED THE WORDS OF MY UNREASONABLE COLLEGE SEMPAI. "I'D SAY YOU'RE SAFE AS LONG AS YOU WRITE SOMETHING INTERESTING" HE TOLD ME UNREASONABLY. WITH THAT IN MIND I DECIDED TO GIVE IT A TRY AND SEE HOW THINGS WENT.

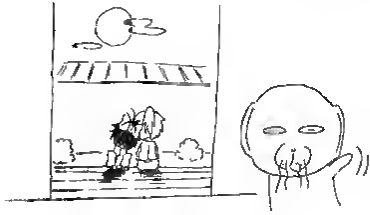
AND WITH THAT, GOSUKE, SHINO AND "SAMURAI USAGI" WERE BORN.

...SO THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY BEHIND THE CREATION OF SAMURAI USAGI. IT MAKES ME VERY SAD TO THINK THAT I WON'T HEAR GOSUKE AND SHINO SAY THINGS LIKE "YUP!" AND "EHEHE!" ANYMORE, BUT I THINK THE FACT THAT I WAS ABLE TO CREATE A SERIES I LIKE SO MUCH IS GOOD ENOUGH AND IT HAS MADE ME VERY HAPPY.

FINALLY, TO ALL THE READERS WHO CHEERED ME ON, MY WONDERFUL STAFF (THE FUNNY DEVIL TAKEUCHI-KUN, THE BEAUTIFUL GODSEND KOYAMA-KUN, TSUCHIDA-KUN WITH A PUNCH SO STRONG IT'D MAKE YOU THROW UP AND MADMAN OGURA), MY SUPERVISOR YOSHIDA-SAN WHO I CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR, MY DEAR FRIEND WHO GAVE ME LOTS OF ADVISE, THAT ONE PERSON WHO SUPPORTED ME MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE FROM THE SHADOWS, AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO WAS INVOLVED WITH SAMURAI USAGI- I CAN'T BEGIN TO EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO ALL OF YOU.

LET'S MEET AGAIN SOMEWHERE. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

2008/10/06 FUKUSHIMA TEPPEI



SAMURAI USAGI SCANLATION

THANKS FOR STICKING WITH THIS SERIES 'TILL THE VERY END, FELLOW FANS! I'M SO HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FINISH THIS PROJECT!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO RAIKIN, SUNNY D, RILEN AND SAYO FOR HELPING ME OUT ALONG THE WAY! YOU'RE ALL AWESOME!!

LET'S ALL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FUKUSHIMA TEPPEI'S NEXT BIG HIT =D